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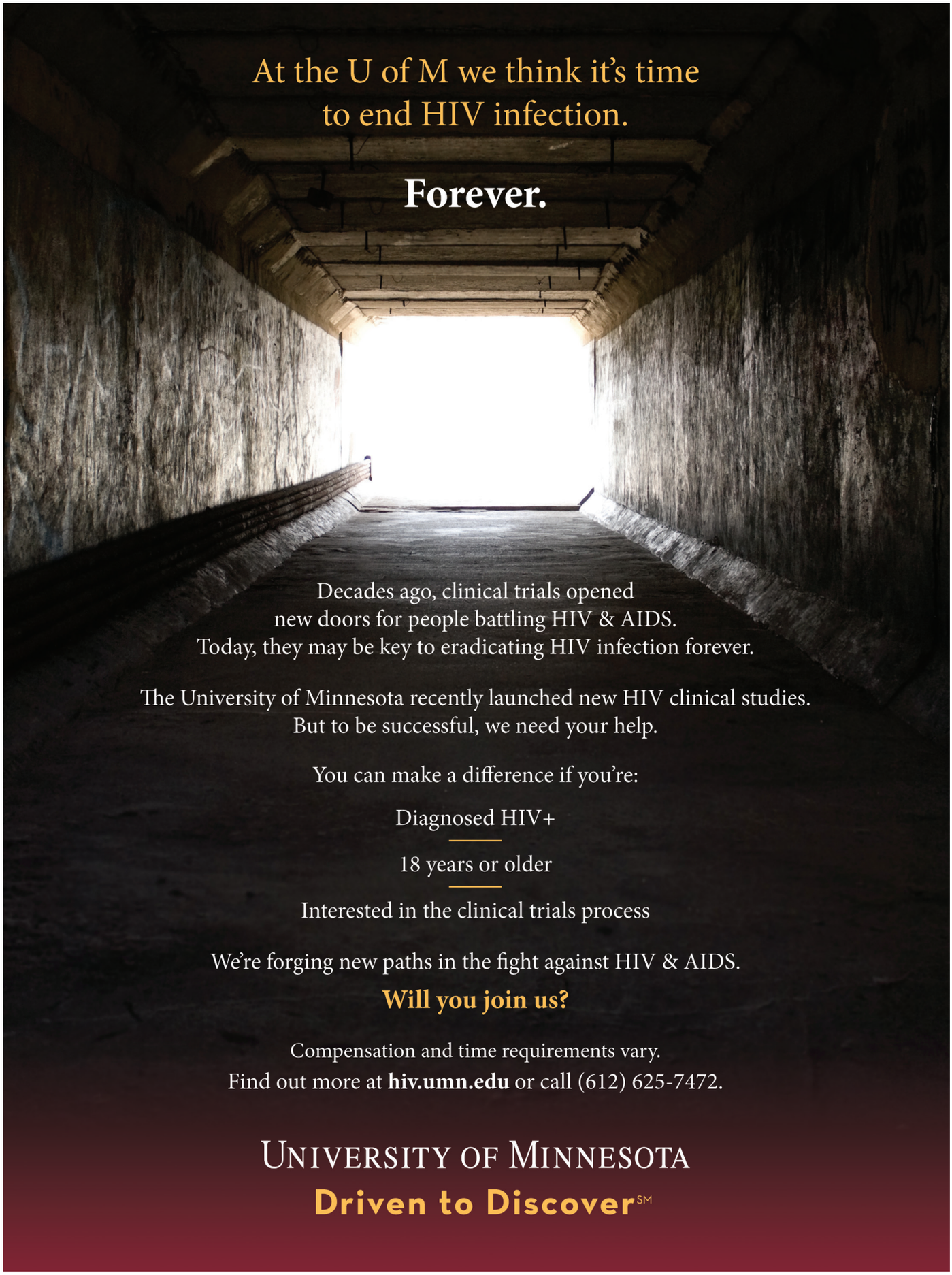


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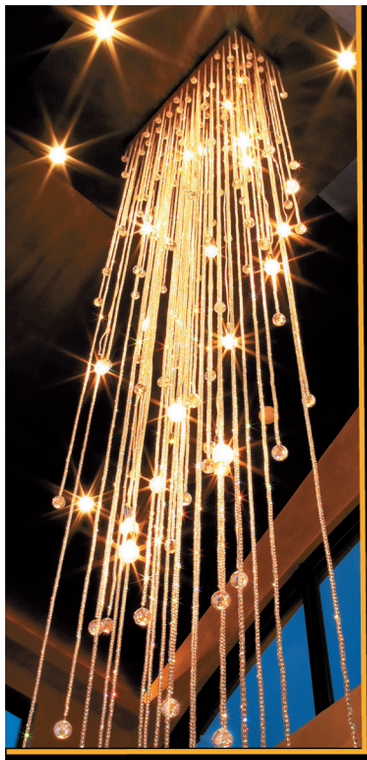
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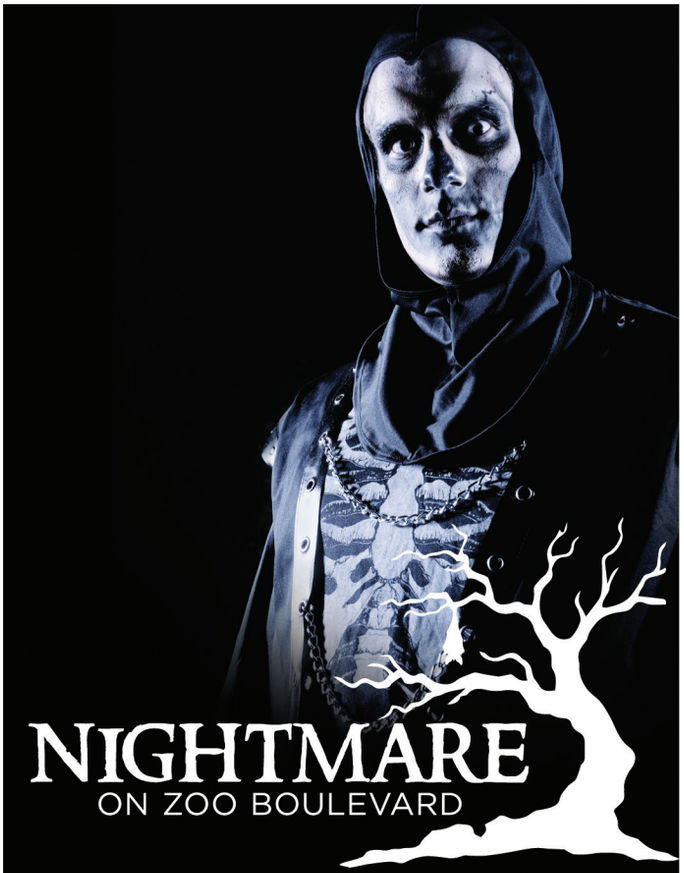


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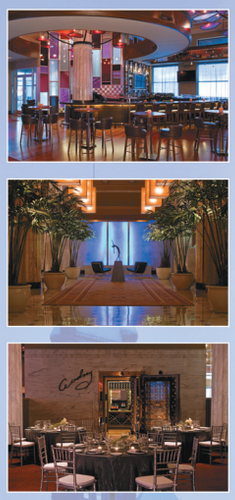
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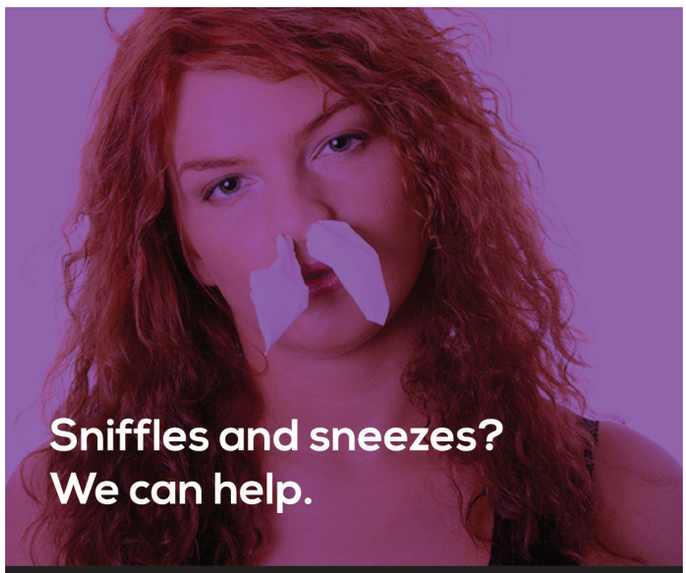
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CONTENTS

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FEATURE: HALLOWEEN
26 Alice in Wonderland
30 Bear With Me...Halloween Events
32 Halloween Gets Theatrical
38 All Howl's Eve Pet Costumes

SPECIAL: HEALTH QUARTERLY
46 Starving the Gay Within
48 Internal Battle: Eating Disorders
50 Fighting Fat with Fat

OUR LAVENDER
12 From the Editor
14 A Word in Edgewise
16 Lavender Lens
59 Bear With Me (While I Tell You About)...

OUR SCENE
18 Arts: Spotlight
20 Food & Dining
41 Music: On the Record
42 Barometer
43 Bar Showcase
44 Sports: Playing for the Other Team

OUR LIVES
52 Leather Life

OUR AFFAIRS
54 Books
55 Big Gay News

OUR HOMES
56 Ride Review

OUR RESOURCES
61 Classifieds
62 The Network
64 Community Connection

OUR VOICES
58 Skirting the Issues
60 Dateland
60 Trolin
66 Through These Eyes

ON THE COVER
Throw a tea party this Halloween with costumes inspired by *Alice in Wonderland.*
Photography and Artwork by Mike Hnida



40







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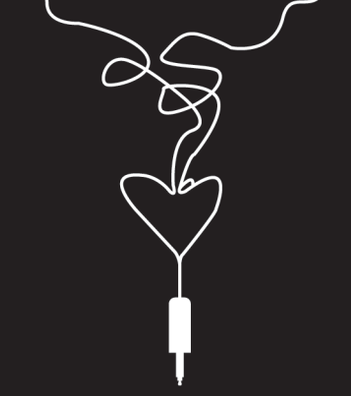
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FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

Playing Dress-Up

Halloween is almost here! I go hot and cold as to whether or not I'm going to participate in Halloween events based on whether or not I've got a killer costume. Last year, we'd done an epic Halloween How-To Issue with so many of our local queer performers portraying characters from popular television shows and movies, so I cherry-picked a few items from the props. A wig here, a coat there, a bustled skirt from HipsAndCurves.com...and I ended up with a pretty great Victorian Era Goth Gal costume, in ankle-to-neck all-black. Better? I wore it to a bash at the American Swedish Institute and strolled around the palatial estate as if I owned the place. Ah, fantasy. I love it.

This year, I'm still at a loss. I know that I've gone on record saying that I'll dress as Thor, who is one of My People per our shared heritage, at Superhero Bingo A Go Go in November. But, for the high holiday itself? I'm still searching.

I like the idea of dressing up; but I probably like the idea more than the reality. Just this morning, I reposted a picture on Facebook of Angelina Jolie receiving an award from Queen Elizabeth because I loved her outfit (I'm sure the award was awesome, too). I put it on my virtual Bucket List of Outfits because it was just so gorgeous with some features reminiscent of the wardrobe of Jackie O. Like this outfit, there are clothes that I picture when I idealize myself and what I'm wearing in any random scenario in the future. Pretty much anything worn in *Out of Africa* fits that list, much of the J. Peterman catalog, and, apparently, what Angelina Jolie wears when she meets a monarch. There's a bit of a disconnect, though, between what my idealized self would wear and what my real self could pull off.

This is where things get a little dicier. Not only do we all have different ideas of what we think is attractive in clothing, we have different standards for what "looks good." I'm not just talking about wearing clashing colors or patterns, but what cuts and styles "look good" on whose bodies. How are bodies constructed to fit what our society values? Then, within society, what does a particular group prefer? In the rainbow community, there are all sorts of body and wardrobe ideals that fit the various groups within it.

Sometimes, our own bodies are as scary as any costume...or we cover them up as if we need a costume to feel comfortable. I challenge each of us to look at ourselves and think about whether we want to dress up every day to hide ourselves, or really look at ourselves and become comfortable in our own skin. This is nothing new in concept to any of our transgender friends who have done this discernment and concluded that a change is required to be comfortable, at home, at ease. Real. Any of us who have disordered eating in our lives struggle, too. To live in a body that we don't find to be acceptable is a problem that runs rampant in the rainbow community. Sure, there are varying degrees of self-acceptance and fantasy involved in every day of life, no matter who we are. Loving the one we're with all the time can be a tremendous journey and chore. For everyone. But, for some, it can be a deadly journey.

It's appropriate to pair up the Halloween Issue with a Health Quarterly that addresses eating disorders in this community. Of course, it's just scratching the surface of the topic, and it's one that can't be discussed enough. How this community embraces Halloween has been likened to it being the "Gay Christmas" in our pop culture. What's so sexy about the dress-up? The allure of being someone else? Of not being ourselves? And, is there a connection to also having a high incidence of eating disorders? So many questions, such big topics. In this issue, we're just laying the groundwork for further discussion in the future in terms of eating disorders and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. I've said before how this magazine fits into the Special Interest category of publications because the community it represents has both the same and different relationships with various aspects of life as the rest of society does. When there are higher incidences of things like alcoholism and eating disorders, it's our responsibility as media to address them, specifically.

I welcome your insight and questions because, as an interesting note, our research showed us that the eating disorder community is just starting to recognize the rainbow community as being a Special Interest category. To quote the National Eating Disorders Association's website (www.nationaleatingdisorders.org), "Research suggests that eating disorders disproportionately impact some segments of LGBT populations, though there is much research still to be done on the relationships between sexuality, gender identity, body image and eating disorders." It's time to help them understand us so that they can help us, individually and as a group.

I wish you a fantastic Halloween. I hope you revel in the fantasy and find a way to make your reality just as wonderful, whether dressing like Angelina Jolie or Thor on October 31 or any other regular day of the week.

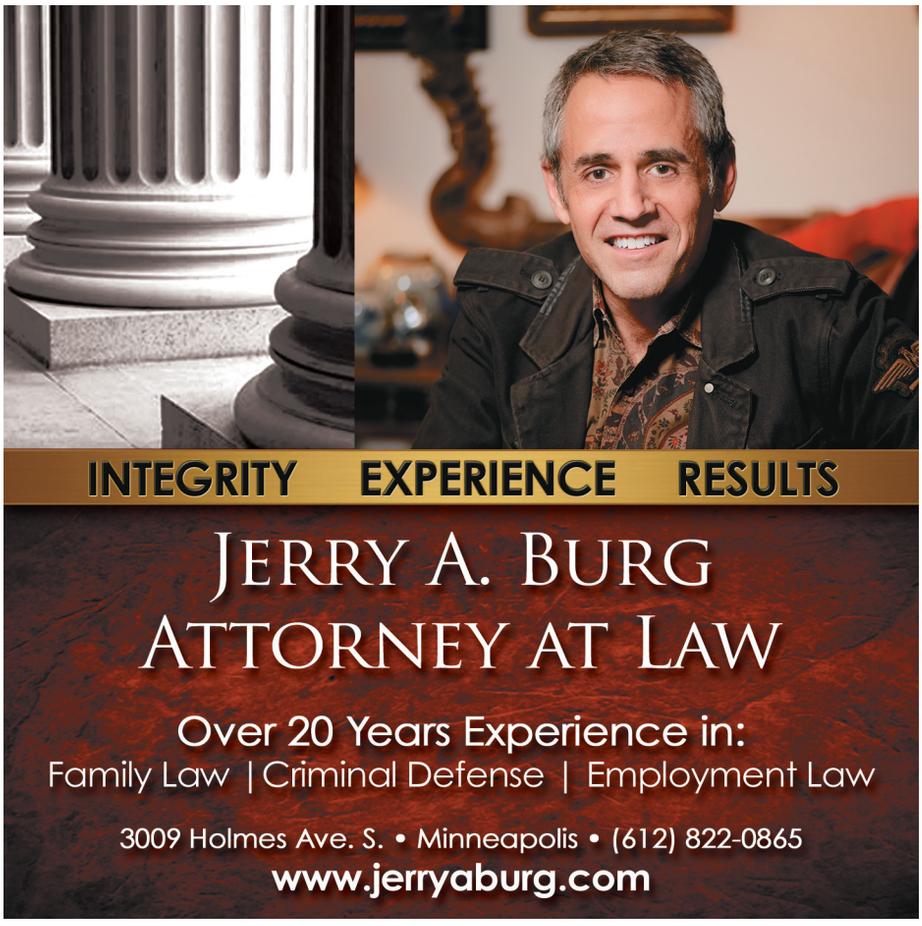
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The fever struck in August. Nineteen-year-old Mai later wrote:

"Each day added new names to the list of the sick and the dead … As we walked home [one] evening, we passed a rooming house where there were fever cases. On the ground beneath some of the windows lay bloody rags, and an awful stench pervaded the air. We heard groans from the sick and felt sure they were alone. No one would venture to nurse fever patients. Even we passed by hurriedly and did not take that route again."

Mai tended her stricken landlady, and having been exposed to her bleeding gums and black vomit, Mai became infected.

"Suddenly I began feeling so strange! My legs seemed to be drawing up into my spine. Such agonizing pains I did not know a human could bear." She lay immobile for days. "Our house was situated on the road to the cemetery. All day and through the night I heard the clip-flop of the horses' hoofs as they carried out the dead…I knew another soul had lost the fight. I learned later that five women in our block had died of the fever at this time."

Mai wrote not from the Developing World, but from America: Jackson, Mississippi, 1899, during just one of the many yearly yellow fever epidemics that ravaged the South. A vaccine was not discovered until 1934, nor was Salk's life-saver on the horizon. During summer vacations with Mai–my grandmother–from the late 1940s to mid-1950s, we kids were forbidden to swim for fear of catching polio.

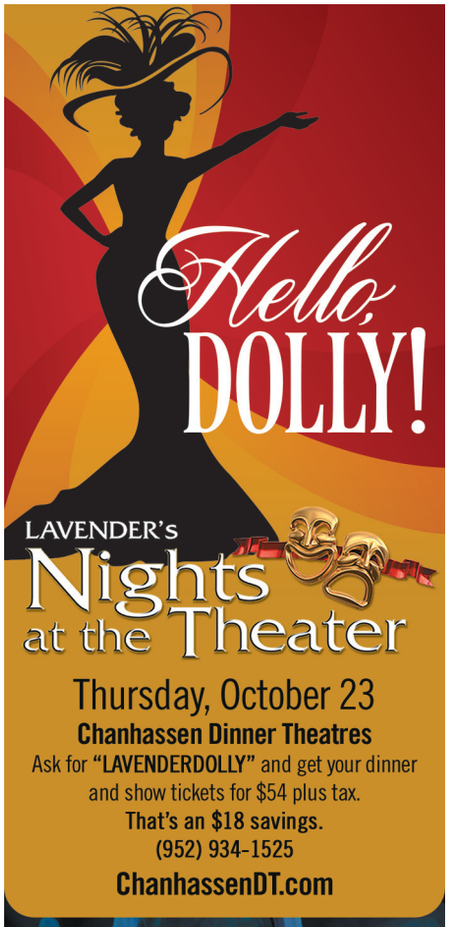
In 1953, Salk announced his discovery and clinical testing began in 1954. In 1953 there were 58,000 new polio cases, and 3,000-plus deaths. Today the poliovirus has been eradicated in the U.S. for 30 years.

It is with growing unease that I read of parents today refusing to vaccinate their children against diseases that once killed hundreds of thousands: measles, whooping cough, meningitis, flu. Diseases waiting to make their comeback as holes in our safety nets are widened.

As I type this piece, 30 September, the breaking news is that the first case of diagnosed Ebola in the United States has been confirmed. There is no vaccine, but there are for many preventable illnesses. Use them. ■







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Colossal. Photo by Rich Ryan of Colossal

COLOSSAL

Through Nov. 9
Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls.
(612) 338-6131
www.mixedblood.com

Andrew Hinderaker's play has a unique structure: four 15-minute quarters with halftime show. It's likely to have more emotional depth than any game you've ever gone to: two dozen men, full-contact choreography, and penetrating inquiry into notions of masculinity. And this was actually slated to run well before the current NFL scandals! Synchronicity indeed!

Quadripalegic actor Tobias Forrest says *Colossal* "tackles homosexuality and disability while finding balance in the struggle that a football player and former dancer must go through after a spinal injury. My character, Mike, must redefine himself as a young gay man who comes to terms with both his sexuality and his disability; however, the real message seems to be more about love than sexual preference. Mike rediscovers his love for football, redefines his love for his father, and reveals his love for a fellow teammate."

Transgender Director Will Davis calls *Colossal* "A play about the trauma of losing an identity or a way of being in the world and grappling with what it means to create a new identity in the face of the unknown. Mike is a closeted athlete competing at the top of his game when he sustains the injury that changes his life forever, an injury which is all tied up in his love for another teammate, Marcus. As Mike must make a choice about whether he'll live in the past or move forward into an uncertain future, he is haunted by his feelings for Marcus and what it has cost to love him."

EATING RAOUL

Through Oct. 26
New Century Theatre, 615 Hennepin Ave, #145, Mpls.
(612) 451-9501
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

Minneapolis Musical Theatre begins its new season with a transgressive musical staged by its new Artistic Director, Christian Unser, as well as support from Hennepin Theatre Trust. *Eating Raoul*, the 1980s cult film, didn't go mainstream because its themes of cannibalism and sex work, juxtaposed with middle class aspirations, implied a lack of optimism on the Reagan era's rosy morning in America pablum. The audience that saw it was limited in number but its popularity exponentially increased on alternative film circuits. Therefore, all these years later it has become the perfect recipe for an offbeat stage adaptation.

However, in the stage musical version, the '80s have been nixed. Unser says the musical "transports the murderous Mary and Paul Bland back in time to the swingin' 60s. While maintaining the lecherous behaviors of the other characters in the movie version, this time shift allows Mary and Paul to be more believable as a prudish married couple. They grew up sheltered in the '40s and '50s. They even sleep in "Ozzie and Harriet" beds, which makes more sense in the '60s than the '80s. And when the bodies start falling, that naïveté lends itself to misunderstandings and situations they've never had to deal with before, which generates most of the comedy and inspires the musical numbers, too."

GIRL GUMSHOE & DETECTIVE DAD

Oct. 17 – 29
People's Center
425 20th Av. S., Mpls.
www.brownpapertickets.com

Gadfly Theatre continues to build its reputation as a committed source for queer-oriented stage work. Immanuel Elliott, who is



Eating Raoul. Photo courtesy of Minneapolis Musical Theatre

directing *Girl Gumshoe & Detective Dad*, describes the set-up by playwright Eli Effinger-Weintraub: "Gina Davenport (Lauren Diesch) is moving out of her parents' basement and into her first apartment with girlfriend Sarita (Kathryn Fumie). She has to navigate the tricky situation of growing up and remaining a child. Her relationship with Sarita and her relationship with her father, Troy (G. Zachariah White), often bump up against each other in both comic and tragic ways. The idea of cohabitation and what it takes to make any relationship work run thorughout the play with Gina and Sarita grappling with what this huge milestone represents for them."

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES

Through Oct. 26
Guthrie Theater, 818 So. 2nd St., Mpls.
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

Wendy Wasserstein's Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winning comedy is rightly considered to be a landmark American feminist play. Moreover, *The Heidi Chronicles* is also inclusively rich with gay roles which the current Guthrie production handles splendidly.

From 1965 to 1989 straight protagonist, art history professor Heidi Holland (a winningly introspective Kate Wetherhead) navigates changing social expectations about women from both the political left and right with a steadiness that takes an emotional toll on her, but which builds her character. Through that, she maintains a deep friendship with Peter Patrone, a gay pediatrician with whom she is essentially a surrogate family member. Zach Shaffer's touching performance reveals a man who himself must navigate the manly expectations foisted on the American male of our species as well as those which gay men of the time had to contend with. The anguish of AIDS in the '80s is powerfully portrayed.

Mo Perry is brusquely delightful as a lesbian feminist who makes her views felt at a women's support group in Ann Arbor, 1970. Perry is one of a terrific quartet of actresses who each shine in mulitiple roles: Stacia Rice, Tracey Maloney, Eleonore Dindy. These other three each have, among others, their own bristling turn as tools of corporate media, something which the late Wasserstein (1950-2006) is clearly cautioning about. Director Leigh Silverman has evoked the era and its passions with a cast that was probably only born well into the play's time span, if not later. She has guided the show with a sharp eye and joyous clarity. And Laura Adams's hair styles are simply smashing!

MISS JULIE

Through Oct. 26
American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Av. S., Mpls. (612) 871-4907
www.ASImn.org/MissJulie

Swedish playwright August Strindberg (1849-1912) still holds his own as a master playwright when it comes to the proverbial Battle of the Sexes and *Miss Julie* may be his most vivid example of that. At the American Swedish Institute, Theatre Coup d'Etat director Peter Beard points out that "dominance and submission in *Miss Julie* cannot be separated from the class and gender struggles that are present throughout the play. First is the difference between Miss Julie (Kelly Nelson) and her valet, Jean (James Napoleon Stone). Miss Julie obviously is in the dominant position as the character who is higher on the social ladder, but Jean wields his own power in his own right as a man. Throughout the play both are at times dominant of and submissive to the other. They both borrow words from each other in what Strindberg describes in his foreward as 'the weaker steal and repeat the words of the stronger.'"

Beard also points out Miss Julie and Jean's relationship with another servant character, Christine (Brie Roland): "While Christine states constantly that she knows her place within the hierarchy, she exerts a power over Jean that cows him into doing her will up until the very end, when again he asserts his manhood. The back and forth plays of master/servant relationships and who asserts dominance over whom are constantly changing. It is this constant upheaval and power struggle that make for one of the greatest character-driven early naturalistic plays."



The Heidi Chronicles. Photo by Joan Marcus

TWIN CITIES HORROR FESTIVAL

Oct. 23 – Nov. 2
Southern Theater
1420 Washington Av. S., Mpls.
(612) 340-0155
www.tchorrorfestival.com

Comedy at a horror festival may seem incongruous but the Southern Theater will be hosting a fair bit of it for your Halloween fun. And they always say that laughter can dissipate fear and anxiety. You can see a uniquely bizarre take on Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleford, a comic version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and a inquiry into why we are frightened of dolls. Their creepy eyes, those fixed smiles, and wondering if those eyes just moved! On a more serious note, one piece deals with "Body Integrity Identity Disorder." Seriously! It all comes from the cryptic minds of some very accomplished Twin Cities performance figures. ■

FOOD & DINING | BY JOY SUMMERS | PHOTOS BY HUBERT BONNET

Lyn 65



LIVING THE DREAM ON LYNDALE

Living the dream sounds like lounging oceanside with a blender drink and a cabana boy near at hand. Actually living your dream is often a gnarly reality. There are blisters, sweat, and freak-outs when you wish no one was looking. There are bills that never stop coming. There are angry people. Happy people. There are so many people all depending on you and your dream for a piece of their happiness. Living the dream is brutal business and not for the faint of heart. It is exactly what the guys behind Lyn 65 are doing and they wouldn't have it any other way.

Ben Rients, Jason Sawicki, and Travis Serbus are not above spending over 24 hours straight inside their new restaurant that's drawing food fans to Richfield. Since the opening of Lyn 65, fans have gushed about the cocktails, praised the food, and proved they're willing to wait in line and sample whatever the team deems worthy to serve them.

Rients and Sawicki met while working the line at Restaurant Alma. The restaurant is widely regarded as one of the best in Minneapolis. Chef and owner Alex Roberts has received numerous accolades including the prestigious James Beard Award for Best Chef Midwest. It was inside Alma's kitchen where the two young chefs honed their appreciation for sourcing the best ingredients available and preparing them in ways that accentuate the flavors. This is where the dream was hatched. It was with the blessing of the entire restaurant crew and some unpaid consulting help from Chef Roberts that the duo began to piece together

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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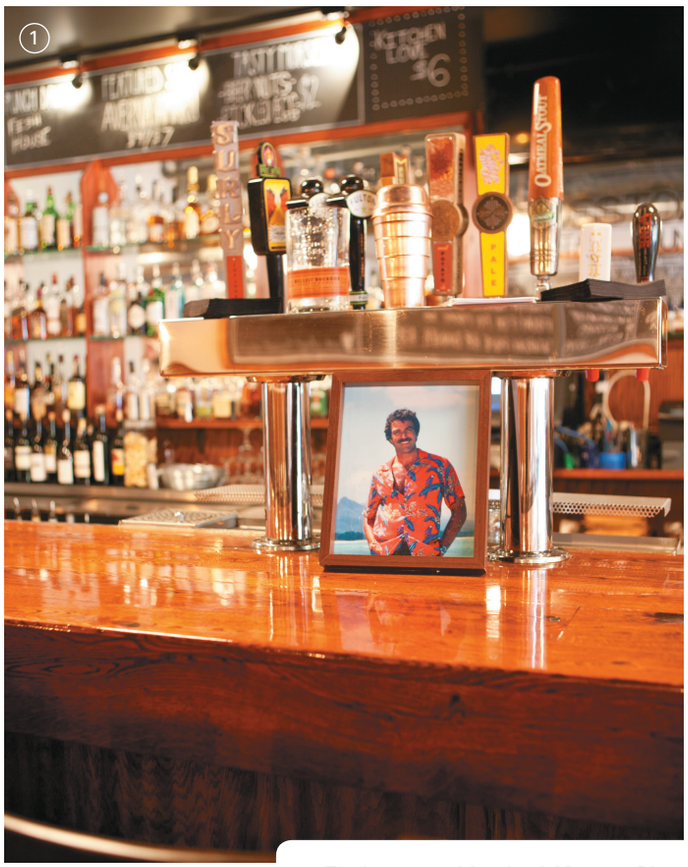


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1. The Lyn 65's spirit animal: Magnum P.I. guards the bar. **2.** Scallops with sweet potato three ways. **3.** Orecchiette with Bolognese and cauliflower. **4.** Butternut squash soup with lobster.





CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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the rough idea that would become an independent restaurant with a tasting menu, well-chosen wine list, Neapolitan-style pizzas, and bar food.

Travis Serbus had read about the impending restaurant and reached out to Rients through Facebook with some ideas for a craft cocktail program and a partnership. Serbus has worked behind several bars around the Twin Cities including Barrio, coup d'état, and he was on the opening team for Butcher & the Boar's beer garden.

The threesome worked feverishly to flesh out a dream spot, but dreams take time to build. Or, as Rients said, "Chefs make terrible carpenters." Construction took some serious time, but they worked with contractors to build their designs on a kitchen–a cozy space dominated by a domed pizza oven; a long, sleek bar with wide-seated, comfortable stools; and a long rustically sophisticated dining room.

The dishes we tried were rustic, but prepared with a refined technique. The Orrichiette dish, with wee little ear-shaped pasta, was prepared perfectly *al dente* with cauliflower and dressed in a meaty Bolognese sauce. It was rich and comforting, with a surprising lightness from the cauliflower and a bright note in the sauce.

Seared scallops were served with sweet potatoes prepared three different ways. The scallops were a beautiful quality with craggy, brown-topped crusts and succulent, quivery interiors. The sweet potatoes were made into crispy chips, a creamy sauce, and a satisfyingly toothsome roasted little wedge. The entire dish is splashed with an apple cider ponzu sauce. The plate was an autumnal balance of flavors.

We happened to visit just as the menu was transitioning from the warm final days of summer into the colder reality we now reside in. A soup was a holdover; once chilled, now a warm butternut squash served with threads of plump, rosy-colored lobster meat.

The menu is often-evolving as the kitchen determines what their diners are seeking. At first, the crew was unsure what the Richfield diners would want to find in their neighborhood. As time goes on, they have discovered that it isn't just the Richfield residents who come in, but people from nearby South Minneapolis, Tangletown, and even Edina are swarming. Located just a hop and a skip off the freeway, it's an easy spot to get to even if you don't reside in the 55423.

Those lucky enough to live nearby can likely better indulge in the cocktail list, though. Serbus' drinks are the sort best enjoyed with a crew of friends ready to imbibe and share. The spirits are balanced with expertly built layers of flavors drawing on the seasons and spirits on hand.

The Cut Cut Stab Kill is a frothy beauty made from a blood orange marmalade (that they make in-house), blood orangecello, livened up with lemon and mixed with Stab and Kill bourbon. He then drops in an egg and shakes the bejesus out of the thing, to create the resulting froth.

The best cocktail we sampled was the Bullet Proof of Bulleit Rye, apple cider, maple syrup, and cherry bark bitters. Serbus also serves a smoked option, with Laphroaig scotch that he swears tastes like drinking in a late summer bonfire. All these cocktails are priced at $9. (Try to beat that price at any of the fancy watering holes in the North Loop.)

There's also a rotating special punch for as low as $4 a serving.

No matter what they're serving, or how many nights they have to make it through with only a brief nap inside the back of the restaurant, this is the dream that they created. They live it every day and are thrilled to share that delicious, hard-fought dream with the world. ■

LYN 65
www.lyn65.com
6439 Lyndale Avenue S.
Richfield, MN





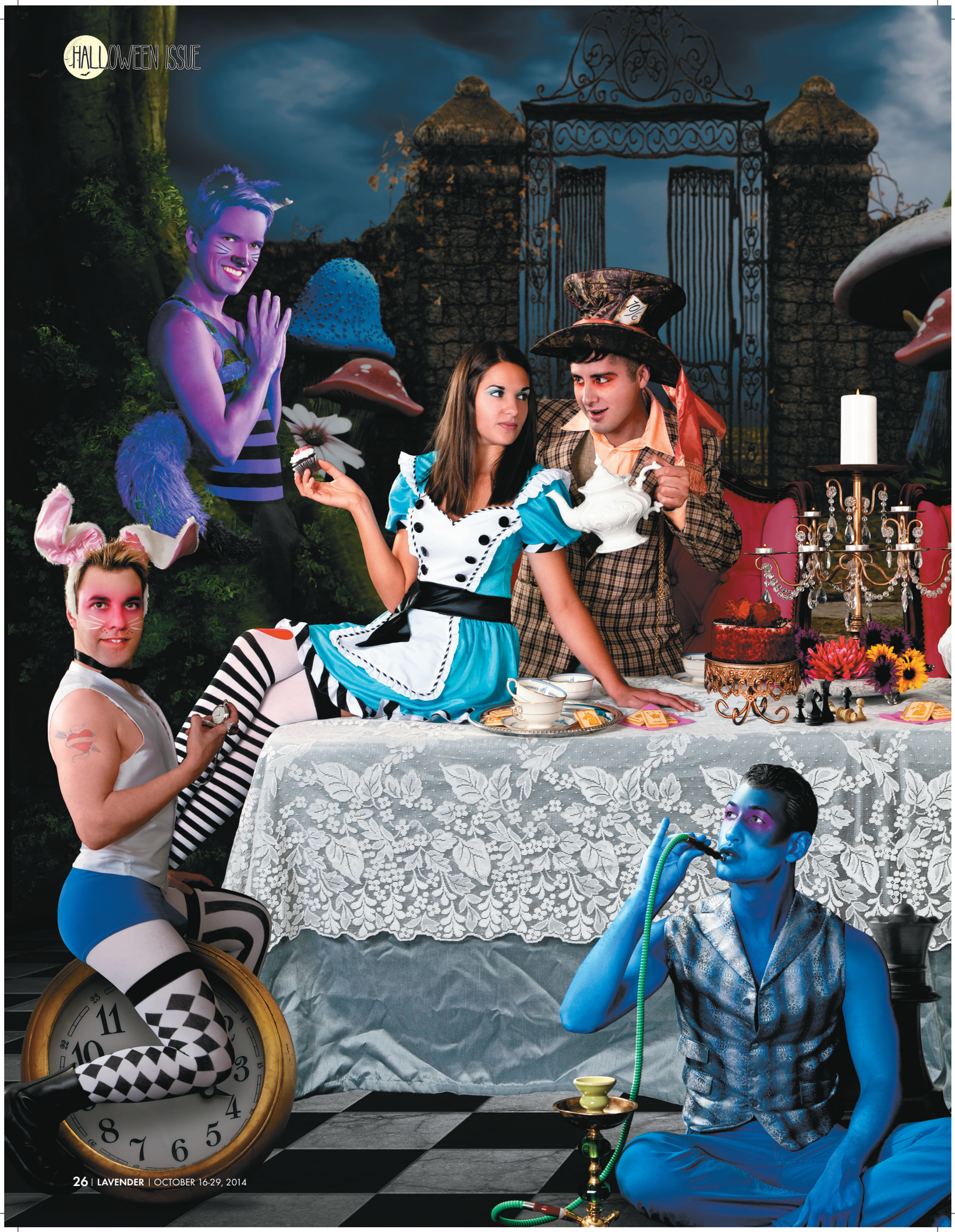
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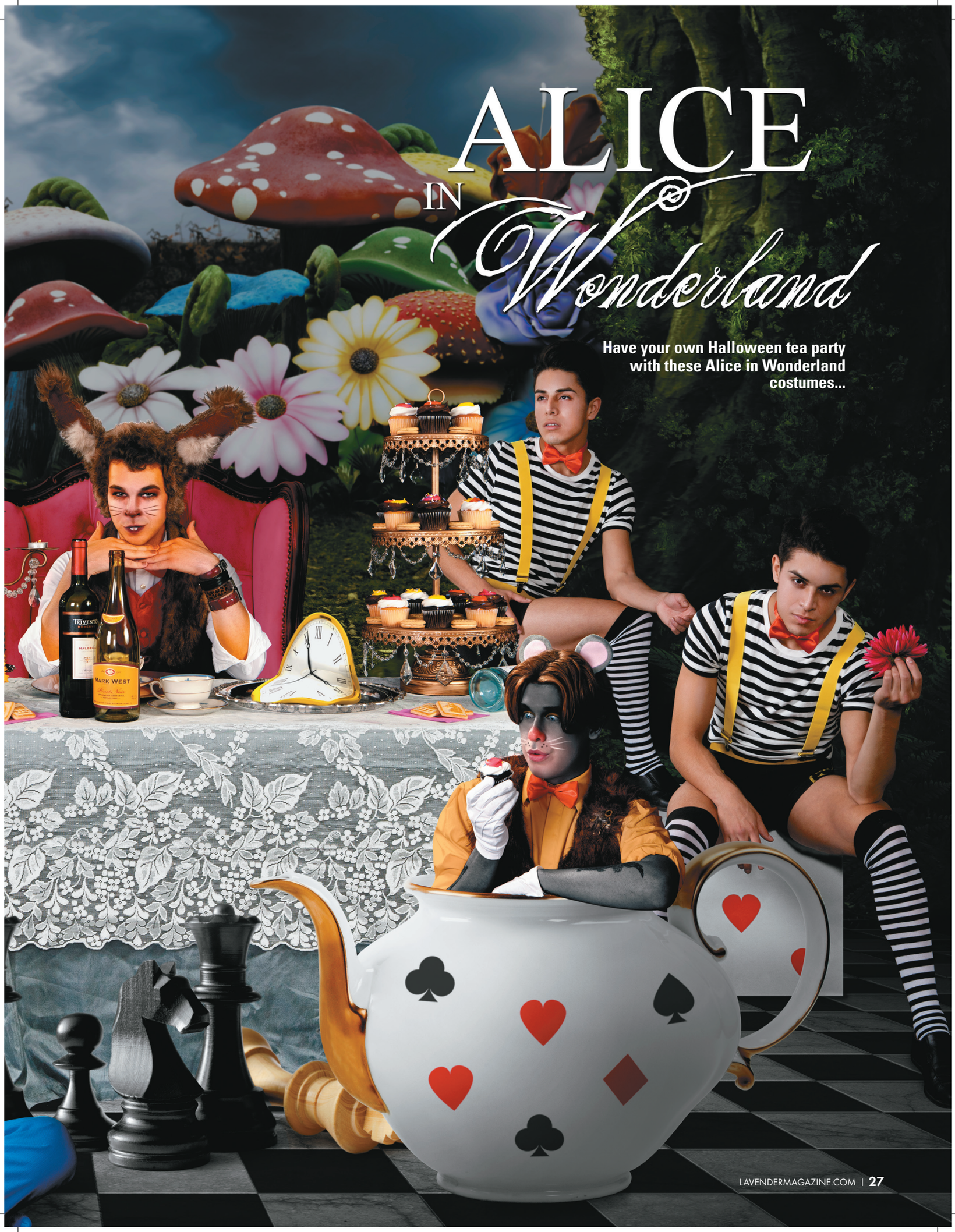

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Fur Shawl, Costumes Plus, $14.99
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Dormouse
Model: William Cummings
Mouse ears, Costumes Plus, $11.99
Vest, Ragstock, $15.00
Bow tie, Amazon, $1.50
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Cheshire Cat
Model: Philip Johnson
Cat ears and tail, Costumes Plus, $21.99
Striped tank top, Amazon, $23.50
Pants, Models own

Caterpillar
Model: Jason Moravec
Vest, Ragstock, $15.00
Jeans, Models own
Hookah, Models own

White Rabbit
Model: Mike Hnida
Rabbit ears, Costumes Plus, $5.99
Vest, Ragstock, $15.00
Shorts, Fantasy Gifts, $24.99
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LOST SOULS TOUR

October and last Sunday of each month at 12:30pm
Wabasha Street Caves • 215 Wabasha St. S., St. Paul
For one hour you will hear of the different sightings in the Wabasha Street Caves. Some were by employees, some by vendors, and even some by guests of a wedding. If you have always wanted to know what goes on inside these Caves, this is your chance. Walking tour. Limited dates in October. www.wabashastreetcaves.com for more info.

CAVES & GRAVES TOUR

Weekends in October
Wabasha Street Caves • 215 Wabasha St. S., St. Paul
This 2-hour deluxe motor coach tour is designed to give you a shiver and not a heart attack. Hear stories of haunted sites, historic murders, visit a haunted Cave and learn about the history of a local St. Paul cemetery. Keep an eye on your hosts because your tour guide might be a mad nurse, a fortuneteller, or even a vampire! There is also the option to do the **Ghosts & Graves Tour** that does not include going in the caves. Reservations are required. www.wabashastreetcaves.com for more info.

RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S FRIGHT FARM

Weekend nights through October 31 • 7-11pm
Ramsey County Fair Grounds • 2020 White Bear Ave. N., Maplewood
Do you believe in ghosts? Perhaps seeing is believing. When something touches you in the night at the Fright Farm, it could be a performer…or it could be something else. Legend says that when the indigent were sent to live out their last days at the Poor Farm, some committed suicide while others naturally perished. Either way, their spirits are here to stay. Tickets are $10.00. www.frightfarm.org for more info.

VALLEYSCARE

Weekend nights through November 1
Valleyfair • 1 Valleyfair Dr., Shakopee
Each weekend night through Halloween, Valleyfair morphs into a horror-filled nightmare. Not appropriate for patrons below 13 years of age, ValleyScare offers mazes with terrifying creatures around every corner and rides that'll haunt your dreams. Not a ride person? Then check out scare zones and shows meant to make you shriek. Tickets start at $31.99. www.valleyfair.com/haunt for more info.

SCREAM TOWN

Weekend nights through November 1
7410 Highway 212 E, Chaska
This haunted town is set in a secluded atmosphere surrounded by a forest and cornfield. With the largest corn maze in Minnesota, there are no wagons and no tour guides: just you navigating huge haunted attractions. Tickets start at $20.00.
www.screamtown.com for more info.

DREADWOOD HAUNTED FOREST

Weekend nights through November 1 • 7:30-10:30pm
835 County Rd. E., Hudson, WI
"No hayrides. No escape. No mercy." An isolated forest outside of Hudson, WI, Dreadwood is not a park surrounded by neighborhoods or filled with cabins. When night falls, the darkness is consuming. You MUST stay with your guide. There are no side-doors or escape routes — once you have entered Dreadwood, the only way out is through. Tickets are $12.00. www.dreadwoodhaunt.com for more info.

REAL HAUNTED TOURS

Weekend nights through November 1 • 5-11pm
Mounds Theatre • 1029 Hudson Rd., St. Paul
For one hour you and up to 15 other people will have two experienced paranormal investigators walk you through the theatre in near darkness. The tour includes several pauses for evidence gathering and invitations for activity, so don't forget to bring your camera, voice recorder, or video camera and attempt to catch your own evidence! Tickets are $20.00. www.realhauntedtours.com for more info.

THE HAUNTING EXPERIENCE ON HIGHWAY 61

Weekend nights through November 1 • Dusk to 11pm
10900 E Pt. Douglas Rd, Cottage Grove
Haunting awaits, but there is fun for the entire family. In addition to the three haunted events, the family can enjoy carnival games, bonfires, and a dance floor and beer tent on the weekends. For those who need a bit more adventure, take part in the Zombie Hunter Paintball Adventure at an additional cost. Attendees should note that the cost is lower this year. Tickets start at $17. www.hauntingexperience.com for more info.

BLACKOUT AT NICKELODEON UNIVERSE

Weekend nights through October 31 • 5-10pm
Nickelodeon Universe, Mall of America
Glow crazy this Blackout! Experience Nickelodeon Universe in a whole new way and get your glow on with unlit rides, black lighting, fog effects, a live DJ, costume parties, black light t-shirt making, and more! The first 1,000 ride ticket purchases made after 5 p.m. will receive a FREE treat bag. Valid on event nights only. Blackout unlimited ride wristbands are $21.99 + tax. www.mallofamerica.com for more info.

TRAIL OF TERROR

Weekend nights through November 1 • 7pm-12:30am
Fri & Sat., 7-11pm Sundays
Tickets: $19.95
The Trail Grounds • 3525 145th St. W., Shakopee
Offering numerous attractions, including a three-quarter mile haunted maze and a lockdown in which participants are blindfolded, bound to a table, and then exposed to smells, sounds and touch that will frighten even the most skeptic. www.trailofterrorfest.com for more info.

NIGHTMARE HALLOW SCREAM PARK AT RUNNING ACES

October 16-19, 23-26, 29-November 2 • 7-9pm (weekdays)
or 11pm (weekends)
Running Aces Harness Park • 15201 Zurich Street NE, Columbus, MN
Celebrating 23 years of scares, Nightmare Hallow Scream Park is the original haunted house, haunted hayrides, and haunted events experience in the north suburbs. The Doom Wagon will take you through haunted trails and you'll experience a ride that you won't forget. Tickets start at $14. www.nightmarehallowscreampark.com for more info.

A BITE TO REMEMBER

October 17, 18 & 25 • 8:30pm
October 26 • 1pm
Nonna Rosa's • 4168 W. Broadway Ave., Robbinsdale
Your name is on the guest list for this social event of the year. A costume party like no other, you'll be submersed in musical madness, plots and twists to make your tummy turn. Join in for delectable food, delirious laughs, devil-

ish fun and a chance to solve a mystery. A murder mystery you ask? Well perhaps. Of course, vampires are already dead…aren't they? Take a seat if you dare, and experience "A Bite To Remember." $40 per person, $35 per person for matinee. Includes four course dinner and show. Cash bar, tax, and gratuity are additional. Reservations are encouraged. 763-537-3700 or www.nonnarosaswinebar.com for reservations and more info.

WOOF 'N' TREAT HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 25 • 11am-2pm
The Shops at Excelsior & Grand • 3730 Grand Way, St. Louis Park
This free event is for pooches and people of all ages, and features a dog costume contest, hayrides, dog games, and fun for the whole family. www.woofntreat.com for more info.

ANOKA GRAND DAY HALLOWEEN PARADE

October 25 • 1pm
Main St., Anoka
Anoka is believed to be the first city in the United States to put on a Halloween celebration meant to divert its youngsters from partaking in more tricks than treats. This year's theme is Retro and, although dressing up in Halloween attire is encouraged, gore and blood are not allowed. www.anoka-halloween.com for more info.

FAMILY EQUALITY COUNCIL FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 25 • 2-5pm
Location: TBA
Join in the fun for the annual Halloween Family Day Party, a family-friendly way to enjoy the season while connecting with old and new friends from the area! Don't miss games, arts and crafts, and fun-filled activities for the whole family. Dress in your best costume if you want to participate in the costume contest. www.familyequality.org for location and more info.

FLIP PHONE: HOCUS POCUS

October 30 • 9:30pm
Honey Bar • 205 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
Flip Phone does Halloween. Get your costumes ready for a witchingly good time. Details were still being put together when we went to press, so search "Flip Phone: Hocus Pocus" on Facebook for updated info.

EAGLEBOLTBAR HALLOWEEN

October 31-November 2
eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis
It will be a wild Halloween weekend hosted by Lucy Stoole. Friday, it's Halloween Costume Contest at Midnight. Saturday, it's Super Hero Underwear Costume Contest, Underwear Night, and Eagle Uniform Contest. Finish your Halloween weekend on Sunday with Showtunes Costume Contest and Beer Bust. www.eagleboltbar.com for more info.

HALLOWEEN AT LUSH

October 31
Lush • 990 Central Ave., NE Minneapolis
Head over to Northeast Minneapolis for their annual costume contest with prizes, and enjoy great music and videos. www.lushfoodbar.com for more info.

THE SALOON'S HALLOWEEN

October 31
The Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
Whether Halloween is an excuse to be sexy or scary, The Saloon invites you to strut your stuff. Costume contests and lots of hot bodies. Now that's my kind of Halloween. www.saloonmn.com for more info.

HALLOWEEN AT 19 BAR

October 31 • Judging starts at 11pm
19 Bar • 19 W. 15th St., Minneapolis
Costume contest with great prizes. There's never a cover charge, so head to the 19 Bar and show what you got. Judging starts at 11pm and winners are announced at midnight. www.19bar.itgo.com for more info.

HALLOWEEN AT THE TOWN HOUSE

October 31
Town House • 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul
The Town House has a bevvy of things going on Halloween evening. The night starts off with Bingo from 6-9pm. After Bingo, it's DJ Shannon Blowtorch at 9pm, performances by Xavier, Sweetpea, Damien, Vivienne, Nocturna, and emceed by Nadine Dubois. Costume contest with first place getting $200 cash and $150 gift certificate to Smitten Kitten. $6 cover charge. www.townhousebar.com for more info.

HALLOWEEN AT THE GAY 90'S

Feargazm
October 31 – November 1
Gay 90's • 408 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
The 90's Halloween will scare the piss out of you! Tour Feargazm, which is located in the 90's bar entrance on 4th St. Costume contests Friday and Saturday nights at the stroke of midnight in the LaFemme Bar. www.gay90s.com for more info.

A SOBER HALLOWEEN

October 31 • 8pm-12am
Twin Cities Leather & Latte • 2717 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis
Looking for a festive alternative to Halloween at the bars? Dress up in your favorite costume and head to Twin Cities Leather & Latte where they'll be "whipping" up (sorry, I couldn't help myself) a sober Halloween. They'll be plenty of snacks, candy, fellowship & more. It's all part of their "Community First" mission. www.twincitiesleather.com for more info.

HALLOWEEN BENEFIT FOR IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE

October 31 • 9pm – 2am
Muse Event Center • 107 3rd Ave. N., Minneapolis
Muse will be transformed into a magical world of giant puppets and professional grade theatrical backdrops by the expert team from Heart of the Beast. A variety of giant puppets, up to 30 feet tall, will be artfully brought to life by legions of performers and puppeteers. Costumes for guests will be encouraged, along with the chance to dance, interact, and be photographed with the larger-than-life puppets. Full bar service will be available.

CURATOR'S HALLOWEEN COCKTAIL TOUR

October 31 • 6-7pm and 7:30-8:30pm
American Swedish Institute • 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis
Creaking doors, sudden bursts of cold air, unattended pianos spontaneously playing tunes... Is the Turnblad Mansion haunted? Curator Curt Pederson will share stories compiled by staff and visitors who have experienced run-ins with the supernatural over the years. As you explore the Turnblad Mansion at night, you will also hear ghostly evidence collected by the Twin Cities Paranormal Society during an investigation last fall. Two handcrafted Halloween cocktails will be served by FIKA on this hour-long tour. This is a 21+ tour. Costumes encouraged. Cost: $30 (includes two cocktails). Space is limited and tours will sell out quickly. Reserve your spot today by calling 612-871-4907 or visiting www.asimn.org.

HOWL-O-WEEN

October 31 • 4:30-7:30pm
Mall of America Rotunda
Calling all Ghouls and Boys! Grab your Mummies and Daddies and join us as we celebrate all that is Halloween. Come dressed in your All Hallows Eve best as you scour the Mall for sweet treats at participating retailers. After you've gotten your candy fix, head into Nickelodeon Universe for a one-of-a-kind experience at **Blackout: Glow Crazy!** Enjoy discounted ride tickets and a fang-tastic selection of free activities! www.mallofamerica.com for more info.

Lavender connected with local Twin Cities theaters to create Halloween costume ideas based on some of their upcoming productions or current events circulating around popular culture. Each theater not only created the costumes, but also contributed a "how-to" guide for anyone looking to recreate the looks.







HALLOWEEN GETS THEATRICAL

Pillsbury House Theatre

Produced by Shane Lueck
Written by Kelsye Gould for Pillsbury House Theatre
Models: Dustin Bronson (T-Rex), Manny (Pineapple General)

Pillsbury House produced *Chicago Avenue Project* in which there are plenty of characters for kids and adults alike for Halloween (or just any day you want to dress like a T-Rex). The latest offerings from Pillsbury House Theatre can be found at www.pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org.

T-Rex
Originally designed by Nathan Christopher
Materials: Foam mattress pad, needle and thread, scissors or utility knife, spray paint, permanent marker, green oven mitts, green shirt, khaki pants
How-to: The dinosaur head and tail are made from an old foam mattress pad that's hand sewn into shape and spray painted. You can add texture to the foam with a utility knife, and add details such as the eyes with the permanent marker.

Pineapple General
Originally designed by Mandi Johnson
Materials: Old stocking hat, foam cubes, green sheets of crafting foam, toilet paper tube, hot glue gun, yellow spray paint, camo jacket or shirt, cardboard cut-outs of fruit, velcro
How-to: The pineapple hat is made by gluing chunks of foam around the base of an old stocking cap. Spray paint the foam and hat yellow. For the top husk part, cut out long leaf-like strips of crafting foam and use a hot-glue gun to attach them around a toilet paper tube. Glue the husk to the top of the hat. Attach the fruit to the jacket or tee-shirt with Velcro.



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HALLOWEEN GETS THEATRICAL

Brave New Workshop

Produced by Shane Lueck
Written by Katy McEwen for Brave New Workshop
Models: Andy Hilbrands (Matthew McConaughey) and Lauren Anderson (Ruth Bader Ginsburg).

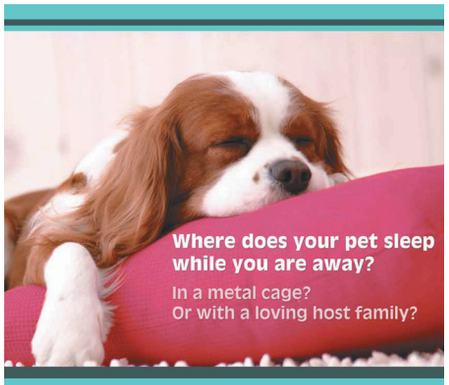
Brave New Workshop created costumes that spoofed Matthew and Ruth as a bit of humor directed at pop culture. The two are favorite characters in the GLBT community this past year thanks to *The Dallas Buyers Club* and the overturn of DOMA by the Supreme Court of the United States. Although Matthew and Ruth won't be appearing on stage at Brave New Workshop, audiences can peruse the theater season at www.bravenewworkshop.com.



Matthew McConaughey
Left all of your shirts at the cleaners this Halloween? Then this Matthew McConaughey ensemble is the perfect choice for you! All you need is a vest, a mullet, and an "I just woke up naked on the beach in a pile of Brazilian bikini models" attitude and you're good to go. Add buttless chaps and a drum circle to take your look to the next level. Alright, alright, alright, indeed.



The Honorable Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg
If you love freedom and a topknot so tight you'll be able to see into the future, this Ruth Bader Ginsburg costume will fit the Bill…of Rights! One trip to the "Suffocating Frilly Blouse" section of Savers and a late-night B & E session into your old high school choir room and you're almost ready to pass swift and righteous judgment. All YOU need to bring to the table is a scathing disdain for stomping on the reproductive rights of women in the name of sweet baby Jesus, and you're good to go.

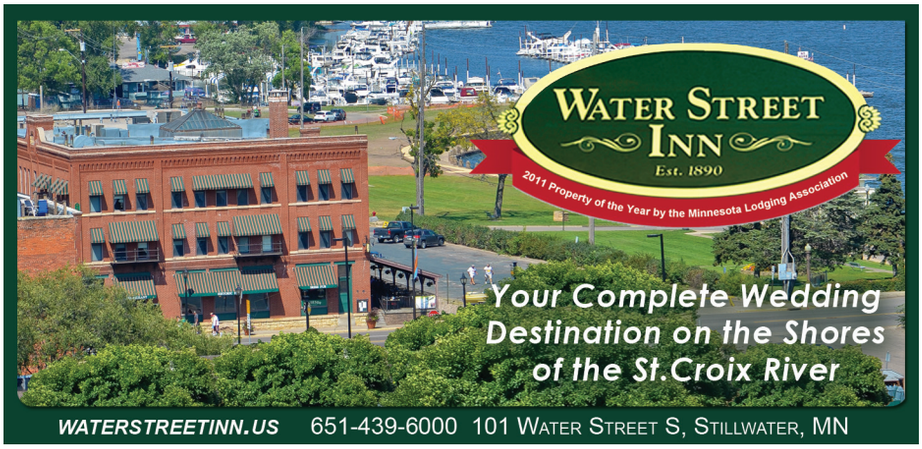


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HALLOWEEN GETS THEATRICAL

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Produced by Shane Lueck
Written by Jessica Petrie for the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Models: Alan Post (Leg Lamp), Mike Linnemann (FRAGILE Box), Toby (Pink Bunny)

Modeled after the items in the Ordway's upcoming holiday production of *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, the leg lamp and FRAGILE box make for the perfect couple's costume for a pair with a good sense of humor. Throw in a friendly dog and pink bunny costume and your friends will be shouting, "You'll shoot your eye out!," "I double-dog dare you!" and "Fra-gi-le. It must be Italian!"

FRAGILE Box

1. Find a large cardboard box and tape one end closed (leave the other end open for the legs).
2. Cut a hole in the middle of the taped end large enough for your head to fit through. Cut arm holes on either side of the box.
3. Cover the entire box with Con-Tact paper with a wood grain design. Cut out the paper where you placed the head and arm holes.
4. Draw straight vertical lines 4-5 inches apart down the length of the box to look like individual boards.
5. Using stencils, paint on the words "FRAGILE" and "THIS SIDE UP."

Leg Lamp

1. Using yellow satin fabric and an "easy" pattern, sew together a basic dress with a flowy skirt. If you don't have sewing skills, find a simple yellow dress and add triangle panels on either side using fabric glue to make the hem wider.
2. Measure up 3 inches from the bottom edge of the skirt and sew in a long strip of fabric to act as a tie. Do this around the entire inside of the skirt every 6-8 inches.
3. Attach black fringe using thread or glue around the bottom of the entire skirt.
4. Use the ties from Step 2 to secure a hula hoop to the underside of the skirt. If your skirt is larger than the hula hoop, gradually take in the fabric until it fits snugly.
5. Throw on a pair of black high heels and fishnet stockings.

A Christmas Story: The Musical runs November 29 through December 28 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets, visit www.ordway.org.

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1. Bumble Bee
$7.99
PetSmart
www.petsmart.com
Just like dogs and cats, you can dress your guinea pig (or other small animals) up so he can partake in the Halloween festivities. Show off your little busy bee to the trick-or-treaters.

2. Dapper Dog
$16.99
Party City
www.partycity.com
This dapper dog is dipped in dignity! If you happen to have two dogs, get two costumes and they can be a set of grooms. Bridal costumes are also available if two brides are more fitting.

3. Dorothy
$15.99
HalloweenCostumes.com
www.halloweencostumes.com
With classic blue gingham, like the kind Dorothy wore, Toto will feel right at home bringing your furry little friend on the next adventure on the Yellow Brick Road. Get your friends' dogs together for a group costume as all of Dorothy's friends are available as costumes as well.

4. Green Lantern
$9.00
Etsy: laMarmotaCafe
www.etsy.com/shop/laMarmotaCafe
Protectors of peace and justice, they are called the Green…Hamsters? Why leave your little friend spinning in a wheel all day when he could be fighting crime?

5. Kitty Up Cowboy
$9.99
Petco
www.petco.com
This Halloween, let your cat appear as if they are a cowboy kitty. Your feline will gallop through the crowd with this mouse cowboy along for the ride. Secures easily with velcro straps.

1



2



3



4



5



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ALL "HOWLS" EVE PET COSTUMES

Gift Guide

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1. Lion
$18.99
Target
www.target.com
Imagine the joy you'll have dressing your pooch up as a large feline. King of the Jungle? Or King of the Doghouse? If only you could read Fido's thoughts.



1

2. Princess Leia
$10.00
Etsy: PamperedBeardies
www.etsy.com/shop/pamperedbeardies
Giving your bearded dragon some dragon wings? Cliché. Turning her into Princess Leia? Now that'll win you some points.

2



3. Pup-A-Razzi Pop Sensation
$19.99
Party City
www.partycity.com
Help your dog avoid a "Bad Romance" with this Gaga-inspired ensemble, complete with glasses, wig, and bodysuit.

3



4. Spider Hat
$20.76
Etsy: turvytopsy
www.etsy.com/shop/turvytopsy
Who says Halloween has to be campy? Although campy is fun, sometimes a touch of class is necessary. Dress up your bunny in this top hat and watch visitors "Ooh" and "Aah."

4



5. Unicorn
$44.99
Wish Pony
www.wishpony.com
What horse doesn't dream of being a unicorn? Wish Pony debuted their trademarked unicorn browband in 2005 and the quality and demand has never gone down since.

5





SINEAD O'CONNOR
I'm Not Bossy, I'm the Boss

Here's a surprise. I really haven't paid much attention to O'Connor over the years, except for the occasional "she did what?" kind of news report. So this album absolutely knocked me off my feet. Whatever eccentricities O'Connor has shown over the years, she can still bring the songs, as she showcases a fierce commitment to herself and her beliefs throughout this album. The only flaw is that a lot of the vocals are double- or multi-tracked, muddying O'Connor's still impressive set of pipes. Apart from that, the album moves from strength to strength, with defiant declarations like "How About I Be Me" and "Take Me To Church" sharing space with the more meditative "The Voice of My Doctor" and "Streetcars." It's a brilliant set by a seemingly lost artist.



FKA TWIGS
LP1

This Brit with the awkward name (the FKA means "formally known as") arrives as an exciting young turk (in fact, her label is called Young Turks) with a set of spooky, moody tunes that tie into plenty of different strains of pop, R&B, and hip hop. These are spare tunes, often created with just beats and some bits of electronic music. The focus is given over to FKA twigs' fluid, ethereal (really, she could sing in a Cocteau Twins tribute band) voice. It's an arresting mix, especially when so much pop music is interested in beating the listener over the head with distracting noise. Something tells me this will be the perfect album for cold winter days, but it sounds great in summer as well.



IMOGEN HEAP
Sparks

The always exploratory artist pushes high concept to a, well, higher level this time around. The 14 songs here have been created and assembled over the past few years, starting with aural seeds contributed from different fans. These modern-day field recordings–a dishwasher, a burning match–have been used to build up a remarkably complex set of songs. It makes for a beguiling and engaging listen that is one part Laurie Anderson and the rest all Heap. Check out the layers that are built up in "The Listening Chair," especially as the abstract verses turn over to a more tuneful and compelling chorus. You can hear that throughout this album, as unexpected delights emerge at the oddest times and from the most obtuse angles.



BASEMENT JAXX
Junto

This funky British duo make their first full-length appearance in five years (and first significant contribution since the wonderful *Attack the Block* soundtrack) with a joyful set of tunes primed to toss everything into the kitchen sink and let it all mix together. The pair provides tons of wild, dance-laden beats for the various guest singers, rappers and other artists to play with from beginning to end. There's a lot of musical steam here (in fact, one set of lyrics has the guest singer spelling out "S-W-E-A-T") that pushes the listener–even in the confines of their car on a sticky rush-hour drive–to want to move and dance. This may get you some looks on a Friday afternoon, but who cares? This is too much fun. ■

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The Town House Celebrates 45th GLBT Anniversary

Owner Holly Monnett Marks 40th Anniversary

This year is a dual celebration for The Town House in St. Paul. It's the bar's 45th GLBT anniversary. As well, it's owner Holly Monnett's 40th anniversary at the bar.

In the fall of 1969, straight owner Emmett Jewell turned The Town House into a GLBT bar. That year, too, was historic both locally and nationally. On May 18, 1969, Fight Repression of Erotic Expression (FREE), Minnesota's first GLBT organization, was founded. On June 27, 1969, the Stonewall Riot in New York City catalyzed GLBT liberation worldwide. The Town House is now St. Paul's oldest GLBT bar.

August 1 is an auspicious date for Monnett. On August 1, 1974, she began her tenure at The Town House, moving quickly from barback to bartender to manager by 1976. On August 1, 1987, she bought the bar from Jewell, who suddenly died shortly after on September 30. She's now the only gay woman who is proprietor of a local GLBT bar.

On October 25, the Town House will host a gala party throughout the day and night to celebrate its 45th anniversary. Beginning at 3 p.m. is a special Old Timer's Party, with a DJ playing favorite oldies. YOLO performs 3-6:30 p.m.. Chef Larry's famous buffet will then be served. Jen Mink, a police officer with the St. Paul Police Mounted Patrol Foundation, will be in the parking lot next to the bar with two trained horses and merchandise as a fund-raiser for the organization. At 9 p.m., Lori Dokken will play in the Lounge. The main event is a show starting at 9:45 p.m., hosted by Mary Brewster, featuring a cavalcade of female impersonators, including Dotti West, Miss Toast of the Town House 2014.

Monnett sums up The Town House's 45th-anniversary success story this way: "Throughout our long history, we've continually been able to change with the times." ■



The Town House owner Holly Monnett at the beautiful main bar.
Photo by George Holdgrafer

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> EAGLEBOLTBAR

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014






> GAY 90'S

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014










Blaine Hanson, "Our Kid"

The Iron Range. Where the boys drive truck (and no, truck is not meant to be plural; "drivin' truck" is its own verb), play hockey, and chew tobacco. Where the winters are harsh, even for Minnesota. Where many who stay still work in the mines, the region's economic mainstay. Not exactly the sort of place that might seem a safe haven for a young gay kid to come of age, and so it certainly surprises me that Blaine Hanson conveys the self-assuredness I'd expect from someone much older than twenty-three. And someone much longer out of the closet than he has been.

Blaine speaks to me about his path to self-discovery with a quiet confidence, and what I planned as a 20-minute phone conversation turns into an hour, because I'm in awe of the positivity of his experience, and bolstered from the hope he gives me.

I was introduced to Blaine via email, by his advisor, Angie Nichols, who is currently the Director of GLBT Services at UM-Duluth, where Blaine is a senior Psychology major. Blaine brought back two gold medals in Powerlifting from the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, and as impressive as that is, I find his story, and how he got there, even more so.

Blaine definitely looks the part of a powerlifter: all shoulders, chest, biceps, and forearms. A former track star in high school, he dropped out of team sports like football because he felt he didn't fit into the cliques that accompanied the high school sporting world. He knew early on that he was hiding a secret, and like many in that situation, suffered from depression on and off.

"You know that feeling when you're at a party in a room filled with people, and you still feel alone?"

Blaine describes Virginia, Minnesota, as a place where everybody knew everything about everyone else, and said it made being himself difficult. He began powerlifting in his senior year of high school at the encouragement of John Tini, his weightlifting coach and mentor. Powerlifting kept him motivated and built confidence. Upon graduating, he had a brief stint in community college, until his anxiety became such that he sat his parents down in the family living room, and let them know he was gay. He credits his dad, a social worker, and his mom, a retired healthcare professional, with being incredibly supportive from day one.



Photo courtesy of Blaine Hanson

"The more open I was with everyone, the better I felt about myself."

Transferring to UM-Duluth made life even easier. Hanson experienced Duluth Pride, and became a member of the GLBT group on campus, the Queer and Allied Student Union (QASU). He immediately began living life authentically, as an out gay man. Angie Nichols was relieved.

"That makes me feel really hopeful that the climate has indeed changed for GLBT people on the UMD campus. I've felt the transformation over time (14 years that I've been here); so it feels good to know that a student can come here and know they belong, and can thrive socially and academically. That's important to me."

It was Nichols who mentioned the Gay Games to Blaine. Once aware of the powerlifting event, he was on a mission to compete, with Nichols and the rest of the Duluth community stepping up to help fund his trip. Nichols says it was easy to make the decision to rally the troops.

"I am proud of him because he believed in himself and committed to competing in the Gay Games. He said he would have to be 'in training mode' immediately and that's what he did. When I see passion in someone, I join them."

QASU sponsored a bake sale and made a few hundred dollars in a day. The Main Club owner, Bob Jansen, also agreed to host an event. Says Nichols, "We had a night at the bar that we advertised locally where people could take photos with Blaine. We made buttons ahead of time. I sent Jansen photos of Blaine that I took in the gym on campus, and we sold those buttons at the bar like soccer mom buttons to support their kid. In some ways, Blaine was our kid and we all bought buttons to send him to compete and represent us."

Nichols also reached out to the Dean of Blaine's college, Dr. Jill Pinkney-Pastrana, to inform her of his mission. "She found the funds to top off the budget to get him to Cleveland and back. So yes, this was a campus and community effort."

Blaine is quick to say how much he appreciates and understands the magnitude of the community and school support he felt. "They raised over $1200 to get me to the Games. I wouldn't have been able to make the trip a reality without the support of Angie Nichols and the community at large. And it was an amazing experience."

Blaine also tells me with pride that Duluth is listed as one of the top 25 GLBT friendly college campuses in the country. A quick internet search verified this news. I ask Angie Nichols if Duluth has always been so open.

"That's something that has been worked for. If there is one thing I hope that I've taught students in the QASU over the years, it's that we need to care, we need to care deeply and responsibly about each other. Each and every one of us has something to offer, we are invaluable to one another, we are interdependent and no one should have to feel alone or isolated, ever. It's unacceptable. Our job is to reach out, welcome each other in our queer and allied communities, and be willing to walk the journey together."

She's right. I remember one detail vividly from my 20-minute-turned-hour-long phone chat with Blaine Hanson. He quietly said that he knows that not every gay kid makes it through the rough formative years. If UM-Duluth has proven anything, it's that if every kid is "our kid," we can empower many more role models like Blaine. ■

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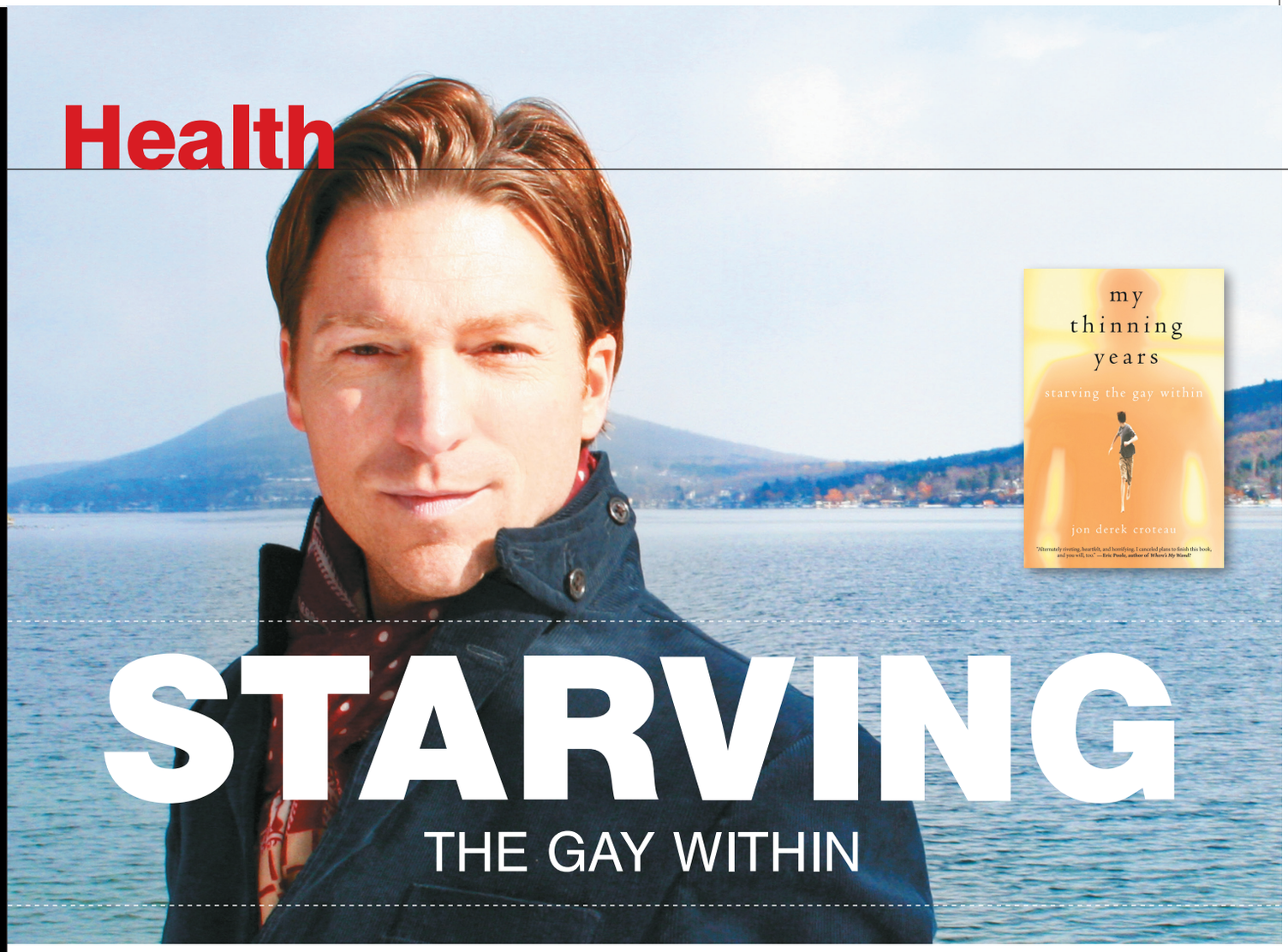
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STARVING

THE GAY WITHIN

"I grew up in a house where it was made very clear that being gay wasn't an option. I was raised Catholic. I was told not to hold my hands a certain way and forced into sports. I knew being gay wasn't going to be accepted. I thought I was the only gay person in my town. It was a very, very scary time for me."

Although Jon Derek Croteau, EdD, grew up in the '80s and '90s without any gay role models, his opening statements over the phone are reminiscent of countless stories of youth today. He continued:

"I was praying to God to help it not be so. I started realizing I had feelings for my best friend and I felt shame and guilt and despair—it wasn't a happy occasion. It wasn't something I thought was normal. You have to remember, I thought it was a sin in my church. It was intense and scary."

Growing up, Croteau said he never truly felt he could express himself, mostly due to his oppressive father, who he describes as the "oil to his water." Croteau recounted that his earliest memories of his father were "entangled with fear and anxiety," as Croteau struggled to fit the mold that his father tried to force him into: that of a macho athlete. While Croteau gravitated toward theater, his father's rules prevented him from auditioning in any play.

At the time, Croteau had just discovered Whitney Houston and Tracy Chapman and was lip-synching in his bedroom so his dad couldn't hear him. When he would have much rather been doing theater and choir, his father was a volunteer coach for three sports and pushed him into playing. "I absolutely hated it. When I was playing football, I was always getting caught watching the girls cheerleading rather than playing the sport. I was never allowed to fully explore those things. My sister says I would have made an excellent dancer or ice skater."

"My dad thought that a contact sport would make me 'tougher' and would get me into better shape," Croteau said. "'It's good for you,' he'd say. 'It'll make you a real man.'"

These microaggressions aimed at invalidating Croteau's sexuality were common utterances from his father. Each year, countless men and women struggle with their own sexual identities. The decision to keep this knowledge private, burying one's true self underneath feelings of inadequacy or fear of rejection from society, family, and friends, can trigger an internal war for the individual with potentially dangerous results. Quite often, suicide and self-abuse become the only escape from the emotional stress he or she carries. This toll was all too common for Croteau who took his suffering to the ultimate level.

In his teenage years Jon started realizing the truth about himself: "I was petrified that everyone would know what was 'wrong' with me, as if some sort of plague was marked on my head or they would be able to somehow see it in my eyes that I was gay."

The confusion of his thoughts and feelings drove Jon mad, eventually pushed him to the edge. He could not handle "the thought of being gay," and his self-hatred caused him to attempt suicide, only to be saved by a family member. Like many homosexuals in denial, Croteau attempted to suppress the urge to be his true self but was unable to do so. He said, "I would have rather died than be gay at the time. I'm happily married and I love who I am now, but at the time when I realized I couldn't change myself, I definitely had a plan that was foiled by my sister."

"I didn't prepare a note—I wanted to disappear for good," Croteau said. He prepared to asphyxiate himself by running his Bronco in his family's garage, but was saved by his sister before he suffered any physical effects.

But it wasn't long before his self-hatred manifested itself in other ways. Croteau's father

was obsessed with his vision of perfection, according to Croteau. Constantly telling Croteau and his two siblings that they were chubby and out of shape, his father often forced his children to do pushups and situps.

"Food was an enemy for us," said Croteau, who developed an array of eating disorders throughout his adolescent years that he described as a "symptom of his own self-hatred." Croteau's eating disorder began not long after high school. He went off to attend college, terrified that everyone would discover his secret: his sexuality. "I didn't want anyone to know," he said. "That's when I left college and took a year off and moved back in with my parents. I think that was a subconscious way to get back at the criticisms of my father to attempt to make me straight."

When Croteau left college and came home, he ended up starting to cut fat out of his diet. He said, "What I saw in my reflection, and what was forever imprinted in my mind, was a pear-shaped chubby person. I loathed my Humpty Dumpty figure, the one I'd inherited from my dad—skinny legs and an oversized, flabby torso." He soon developed a deadly routine of starvation, exercise, and running to the point of withering away. Yet his anorexia had another disturbing purpose—to starve the "gayness" out. Jon was so disgusted and ashamed of who he is that he felt compelled to punish himself and force the thoughts and feelings out by physical exertion. He tortured himself because he believed he deserved it—and had no intention of stopping.

"When I was at my worst I was down to 0 g of fat consumption and I was running from 12 to 14 miles a day. It was pretty intense and I basically cut everything else out of my life to devote to the eating disorder. I didn't know that consciously at the time, but I think it brought me asexuality in some ways. I didn't deal with anyone, I stayed pure and chaste. I think I used anorexia as a way to ensure that no one else could really love me. While running, I didn't have to describe my feelings of despair to anyone there. I didn't have to think about being different."

When he began running in the late winter of 1995, Croteau had no idea that he was launching a war on himself and his body. At first he couldn't even run a mile. His first time was during a late-March wintery mix of rain and sleet and snow, he could barely run for extended periods of time, having never run long distances before. At first a mile took 20 minutes, then 15, and then 12. He said, "I ran every day with determination, and when it hurt, I knew it was working. Eventually one mile became two, then five, then eight, and then 10. When I noticed that my suit pants for work were becoming looser around my waist, I made the connection that it was the result of running and controlling what I was eating. *It's working!*"

"The inner dialogue began in my head. I wondered how many miles I could run without stopping. I wondered how few fat grams I could consume and still run six miles. Half-hours extended to 50 minutes. Fifty minutes grew to an hour. An hour became 75 minutes. I'd run in the rain, during thunderstorms, at 5 in the morning, and at 11 at night, oftentimes both. It didn't matter; nothing could stop me. I never missed a day."

As it got warmer with the changing seasons, he began running in the middle of the day, during the midday heat in attempts to burn as much fat as possible. Stride after stride, he made his way through the winding roads of his hometown of Andover. The inner dialogue about fat grams and running became more obsessive and possessive.

He said, "Once I began a run and set a goal of 10 miles, I felt free; no one could stop me or tell me no. Simultaneously I felt like I had to finish or else I was a failure. In essence, I was a slave to the road, to the sun burning my back like a whip. By reducing my fat intake to zero and running for an hour at a time, I knew that I'd destroy every fat cell that existed in my body. I had commenced an all-out attack on the demon inside me that made me feel that way: my homosexuality. With the strategy that combined running and starving, I was sure to waste away and starve the gay within."

He kept running, sometimes aimlessly, sometimes endlessly, away from what was going on inside. If he missed a day, Croteau felt incomplete. According to him, he felt as if he were doomed and God was going to punish him even more. "All the while, as I obsessed about the running, I became more intent on eating nothing more than just soup for lunch. 'I am a sinner, and this is my penance,' I told myself. 'Keep running, you faggot!'"

Croteau became very strict about sticking to his new way of eating, not wanting to be in situations where it would be difficult to adhere to it, and not wanting people to notice and remark on it. Eventually, he began scheduling long runs at times that would ensure avoidance of all social occasions and interactions. By the end of the summer, he was running at least two times a day. On the rare occasions that he saw friends (rarely, if ever, in situations that involved a meal) they would issue statements of concern. "Jon, you're losing too much weight!" they'd say. "Are you eating enough?" He would attribute weight loss to simply eating healthy foods and suggest that they should, too.

"An insatiable demonic persistence took over my mind. It was never enough to lose another inch or two. I set more goals than I could keep track of—about my waist size, the amount of squeezable fat in my belly, the degree to which my cheeks sunk," he said. "None of the goals were attainable, because nothing was ever enough. I just had to keep going. I no longer recalled why I had launched the war in the first place, nor for which cause I was raging. There were too many battles going on at once and too many voices in my head launching new attacks: against my father, against my body, against my sexuality. It was a full-time assault that required 100 percent of my mind, body, and soul to execute. I would retire each night around seven or eight, long before the sun set, praying to fall asleep. At least during sleep the demands and the orders quieted, until the morning."

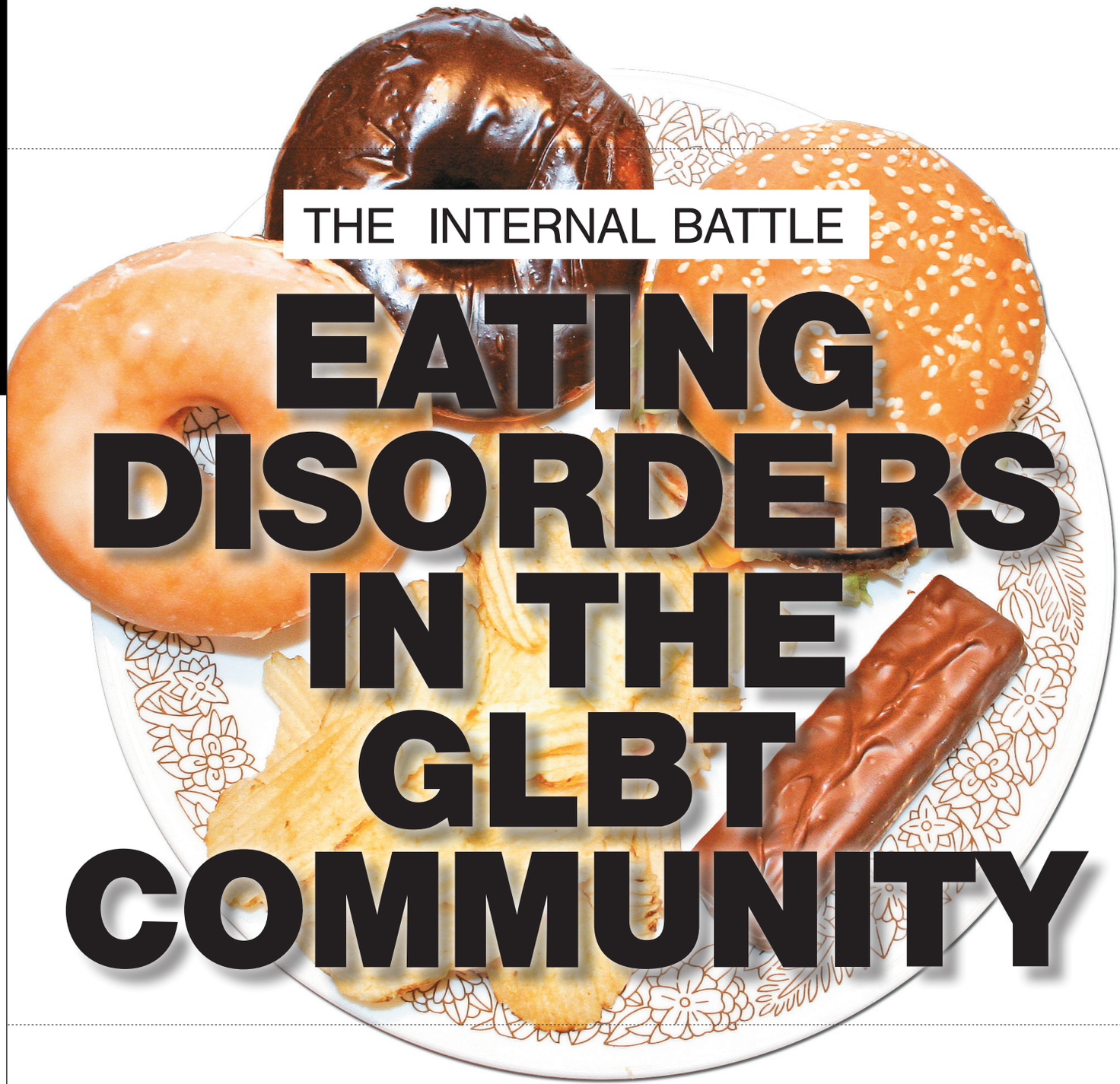
Croteau's journey from those obsessive thoughts to self-acceptance was a long one. After initially leaving college and moving back in with his parents, he received a call from a close friend at Emerson College. This friend expressed knowledge of what was going on and suggested he visit the Emerson campus. Croteau relented and, after visiting and seeing so many people who are open and comfortable with their orientation, he described the experience as cathartic. After fighting with his father (with the assistance of his mother and sister), he was able to apply to and attend Emerson. Slowly, he began telling others around him of his sexuality, and he credits some amazing therapists with helping him along his path to self-acceptance and recovering from his eating disorder and exercise addiction.

"I feel like I've been so lucky," he said. "So many people have it way worse than I ever did; I have this amazing group of friends. And my sister and brother are so supportive and my husband's family is so supportive as well. I feel sad that my dad isn't part of my life, but it feels right. It feels like the way it should have been the whole time."

As the media has increasingly shone light on the staggering amount of suicides in the GLBT community, Croteau said he felt he needed to share his story. "Throughout my adolescence I was so silent about my sexual orientation," he said. "I felt like it was my turn to speak up."

Croteau's story, published by Minnesota-based Hazelden Publishing, is told through his memoir, *My Thinning Years: Starving the Gay Within*. Having debuted September 9, the memoir is already receiving rave reviews. "The only reason why I'm sharing so much of my intimate truth is to help others," Croteau said. "Maybe they have to hide the book under their pillow, but I hope to let them know that there is a better day." ■

Health



THE INTERNAL BATTLE

EATING DISORDERS IN THE GLBT COMMUNITY

"Assumptions, whether true or false, regarding eating disorders in the LGBT community often stem from various sociocultural perspectives," says Troy Roness, international activist and educator for eating disorders, GLBT issues, and healthy body image, and currently serving as the first male member on the board for the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA).

"I don't believe that whether you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender that we should assume one thing or another about eating disorders or the statistics attached with them. Let's face it, we all struggle with body image in some form or another; and unfortunately, body image concerns are only becoming worse. "

NEDA recently compiled multiple findings on eating disorders in the GLBTQ community. Eating disorders are certainly not limited to the GLBT community, with the most recent report that 20 million women and 10 million men affected by various eating disorders in the U.S. alone.

However, NEDA reports that the prevalence of various eating disorders is significantly higher in sexual minorities (read: the GLBT community) than among heterosexuals. Roness says that of those 10 million men, many studies have shown that up to 42 percent of the men diagnosed were gay or bisexual; another study outlined the ratio of gay men to straight men with eating disorders as being as high as six to one.

Furthermore, gay males were seven times more likely to binge and 12 times more likely to purge than surveyed straight males. Gay and bisexual adolescents were significantly more likely to have fasted, vomited, or purged in another manner than heterosexual peers.

Among all men, though, the rate of either past or current experience with an eating disorder is close to one in three, instead of the previously thought one in 10. This is signifying that men, regardless of sexuality, are increasingly making up the numbers of those diagnosed. NEDA is also reporting that men are more likely to have been overweight before the onset of an eating disorder (as opposed to a healthy weight at onset for women). Men are also more likely to use excessive exercising as a form of purging than women, and 33 percent of adolescent males use unhealthy weight control behavior.

This is in stark contrast to NEDA's reports on lesbian and bisexual women. Roness says that research involving women who identify as lesbian are mixed; but most indicate no significant differences with their heterosexual counterparts concerning the number of eating disorders.

While NEDA's research indicated that lesbian women seemed to experience less body dissatisfaction overall, females identifying as lesbian and bisexual were still at a higher risk of binge-eating than their heterosexual peers, with research showing double the rate of binge-eating than straight peers. Elevated rates of purging by laxative abuse or vomiting were also found among lesbian and bisexual girls as compared to heterosexual adolescents.

Following this trend, Roness says the transgender community faces extremely high levels of body dissatisfaction, which, in effect may prompt large numbers of eating disordered behaviors. Despite the disappointing lack of research in relation to transgender individuals and eating disorders, Roness says there has been mention of male-to-female persons developing eating disorders more frequently due to the perceived notion of needing to be "skinny" or "small."

"Odds are stacked against the LGBT community for a variety of reasons, from the very beginning," Roness says. "Whether you are a young individual struggling with an eating disorder, or you are someone middle-aged struggling, the majority of eating disorders stem from one thing: emotional hurt or emotional trauma."

Across all sexes, GLBTQ-identifying individuals are more likely to have an eating disorder or disordered eating habits than heterosexual peers in the same group, according to NEDA's study. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens often have disordered eating habits as early as age 12. NEDA argues that certain issues may explain the seemingly disproportionate rate of eating disorders within the GLBTQ community, specifically among teenagers.

According to Roness, GLBT individuals face overwhelming obstacles rarely identified or noticed by their straight counterparts: coming out, fear of rejection, faith issues, internalized negative thoughts regarding identity, bullying, physical/emotional abuse, and body image concerns. He says, "Eating disorders are never the result of a singular experience in one's life; eating disorders often stem from a plethora of factors, with one 'trigger' event that begins the eating disorder behavior."

NEDA even considers body image ideals within some GLBT cultural contexts to partially influence eating disorder development. The hypersexualized ideals within GLBT culture result in increased pressures to reach idealized images.

"I have wondered, as a gay man, how 'ideals' between myself, other members of the LGBT community, and heterosexual people differ," Roness says. "However, I have realized that the 'ideal' self picture for everyone begins as a healthy visualization of taking care of one's self. Over time disordered thoughts of one who suffers doesn't realize that the ideal (being attractive to others, physically fit, accepted, etc.) becomes harmful and unattainable (skinny, 'ripped,' controlling what is eaten, or controlling the physical as a result of an inability to control sexuality). In other words, eating disorders serve as a control mechanism: a subconscious thought process, but a devastating one. Society gives us one standard: the unattainable. The real question is why do we strive for the unattainable when we each are already part of the seven billion standards already making the world inimitable?"

But the reality is that eating disorders plague a large portion of the population, and that eating disorders and exercise addictions are generally grouped together. With so many various kinds of eating disorders (Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Binge Eating Disorder, Eating Disorders Not Otherwise Specified [EDNOS]), the warning signs are complex. And each of these has the characteristics of exercise addictions or compulsive exercise. For each individual, however, the level of it may be different. But, Roness says, because many sufferers are often driven perfectionists, it is common for them to take working out to an unhealthy extreme.

Think you or someone you know might be suffering from an eating disorder or exercise addiction? Free resources, including educator and parent toolkits, volunteer speakers, and more are available on NEDA's website, www.myneda.org. ■

LOCAL RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

The Emily Program Foundation:
www.emilyprogramfoundation.org
Water's Edge Counseling & Healing Center:
www.watersedgechc.com

The Joy Project:
www.joyproject.org
Park Nicollet Melrose Institute:
www.parknicollet.com/specialtycenters/melrose-center

Health



HOW TO FIGHT FAT WITH FAT

Each time we inquire about nutrition, we are faced with images of perfect bodies and contradictory advice. How do we distinguish between marketing and science? What can we do when conventional wisdom fails us gays and LBTAs? What's the beef with our body coexisting with our foods?

To find answers, I headed to the Weston A. Price Foundation's (WAPF) 2014 Regional Fall Conference in Southbridge, MA, where experts shared up-to-date health information on traditional diets, holistic healing, and nutrition.

WAPF is rooted in the studies of Canadian dentist Weston Andrew Price (1870-1948) who traveled the globe examining teeth and studying the diets of different cultures. Imagine Swiss villagers and Yukon tribal members lining up and opening wide for Doctor Price. As







early as 1894, Price (who went on to become the Darwin of nutrition) honed in on diet as the culprit of tooth decay and physical degeneration.

Dr. Price found that primitive nations never ate lean meat. Much like wild predators, they first ate the organs when they killed an animal. Traditional people saved all the fat to render it into lard or tallow. They fermented fish below dirt and grass. Follow Dr. Price's prescription: include as many nutrient-dense foods as possible in your diet.

Nowadays, President Sally Fallon Morell, leads the WAPF nonprofit that circulates Price's research findings. Morell hails the virtues of nourishing traditional diets, singing the praises of nutrient-rich pastured organ meats, bone broth, coconut oil, cod liver oil, raw milk, butter, cream, fish, shellfish, bacon, and eggs. These foods are laden in saturated fat, what many have been avoiding for decades. It turns out some guilty pleasures are wholesome after all.

Note, however, that not all foods are created equal–quality matters. You are familiar with ubiquitous meats and dairy products derived from industrially raised animals. Imagine growing up crammed into a crowded dance floor without *ever* getting a peep of the sun—I mean disco ball. Think about how sick and depressed we would feel.

Judging by the palpable enthusiasm of the numerous lesbian couples in attendance at the conference, the demand for non-industrial, animal-friendly farming products is bound to expand on its current estimated 15% annual growth.

Is it just *me*, or does it never get old to watch happy cows masticate in the field?

Pasture-raised cattle may take an extra seven months to mature in a natural environment. Free-range chickens mow the lawn for *chirp*. They gobble insects, grass, and clover. Go ahead and benefit as often as possible from the rich nutrients passed on to us. You deserve and can afford the best quality. You have every reason to choose the happy meat (the gay kind) over cuts of creatures under the weather.

Did you know that chicken thigh with skin contains ten times more Vitamin A than skinless chicken breast? Bring on the dietary fat!

Let us seek the density in nutrients. We all have experienced bothersome and distracting cravings. Let the fat intake calm you. You have better things to do than obsess about food.

Dietary fat also allows your body to readily absorb nutrients such as fat-soluble Vitamins A, D, E, and K. When you nourish your body, it functions properly. Your brain, which contains about two pounds of fat, will relentlessly protest nutrient starvation by shooting hunger signals.

But if you wanted food cravings to control your mind, low-fat and fat-free diets would be the way to go. Lean snacks or meals easily trigger a shocking hormonal reaction, which in turn may lead to problems such as quick fat storage, oxidation, and inflammation. On the other hand, saturated fat naturally helps protect you.

Sally Fallon Morell dismisses food trends: "[Modern] diets are made up by men who have never had to fix a meal or put dinner on the table." So, what is the key to vibrant health? "Health is not about what we're serving," says Morell, "but how we prepare our food."

Morell unequivocally recommends choosing high-fat and high-cholesterol foods. But don't fats make us fat? WAPF's Healthy4Life Guidelines state that several studies have shown that you can be healthier and lose more weight on a high-fat diet.

"The last thing you need to worry about is cholesterol," Morell asserts. "Cholesterol is the mother of all hormones. Don't lower your cholesterol. You're going to feel miserable and depressed." The thyroid gland requires healthy animal fats to function properly. When it doesn't, you have low metabolism and gain weight easily.

Morell and Doctor Mary Enig have sold over 400,000 of the *Nourishing Traditions* cookbook. It features recipes such as chicken liver pâté, bone broth, sourdough bread, kombucha, yogurt, and lacto-fermented vegetables such as Korea's national dish kimchi, a powerhouse of healthy bacteria and vitamins.

The two prolific women also co-wrote *Eat Fat, Lose Fat* in 2006. Enig, whom we sadly lost in September, believed we should consume more butter and coconut oil because they promote heart health. Without restrictions, Morell encourages gay and straight Americans alike to "consume whatever fits you, depending on what you can afford, your time, and what you like. You work it out in your own diet."

Vitamin B12 can only be found naturally in animal products. Morell makes a connection between its deficiency and the symptomatic angry calls the Foundation receives from vegetarians.

Morell raises a roar of laughter when she declares: "Vegetables are an excellent vehicle for butter, and fruits are a great vehicle for cream." Dr. Price observed that obesity and cavities were extremely rare among primitive people. Health reasons abound for us to eat a lot of animal fats. Saturated fat is your ally. Fat is on your side. Make no *missteak*. ■

To learn more, visit
www.westonaprice.org
Make perpetual bone broth:
www.nourishedkitchen.com/perpetual-soup-the-easiest-bone-broth-youll-make
Discover real food fermentation:
www.about.alexlewin.com
Watch Farmageddon:
www.farmageddonmovie.com

15 NUTRITION TIPS

1. Stay away from refined or denatured foods.
2. Include animal protein in your diet.
3. Only eat protein that naturally comes with fats.



4. Eat some of your animal foods raw.
5. Seek high levels of enzymes and beneficial bacteria.
6. Soak, sprout, ferment, or naturally leaven seeds, grains, and nuts.
7. Eat a lot of saturated fat to protect your heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, and immune system.
8. Eliminate commercial vegetable oils to help balance out your intake of omega-3 and omega-6 essential fatty acids.
9. Embrace salt in its rainbow of colors and digest protein with ease.
10. Boost your mood and regulate dopamine production with your own gelatin-rich bone broth or chicken broth.
11. Cook, eat, lead by example, teach and share the health.
12. Eat veggies with butter and fruits with cream, as produce are not nutrient-dense on their own.
13. Stay away from trans fats and eat saturated fats to improve or maintain your sex life.
14. Beware of cruel anti-nourishment breakfasts such as breakfast cereal, skim milk, and orange juice.
15. Jumpstart your day with nourishing farm-raised bacon, eggs, sautéed potatoes, whole yogurt or kefir, fruit, and coconut oil.

LEATHER LIFE | BY STEVE LENIUS | PHOTO BY STEVE LENIUS

The Power of Sex and Memory

Your humble columnist welcomes Jakob VanLammeren, the Archivist/Collections Librarian at the Leather Archives & Museum (LA&M) in Chicago, as this issue's guest columnist. This column is based on VanLammeren's presentation during the 2014 International Mr. Leather contest weekend.

Today I want to talk with you about sweat stains on the armpits of a bar vest, handwritten letters, dog-eared magazines, the iconography that shaped us, Étienne murals and Mistress Mir's corset, porn films, used condoms, and oral history interviews. These are just some of the materials in the LA&M's collections, and when viewed together they build a memorial, an institutional and communal memory, a site that allows us to experience our past through primary source documentation.

The LA&M is an institution built from the lives and hard work of a very large and nuanced community of practitioners and theorists: Leather revolutionaries and quiet collectors; clubs and organizations; contests; events; and museum, library, and archives professionals. For the past 18 years we have created in-house museum exhibits in which we select and arrange posters, toys and devices, photographs, artwork, ephemera, magazines, films, fibers, Leathers, and banners.

When Chuck Renslow founded the LA&M in 1991, he wanted to create a place where leather history could be treasured, preserved, and made accessible for future generations. He wanted to take away the threat of Leather history ending up in dumpsters. He wanted to create an institution that would highlight a history that bigoted society never wanted to be remembered. The Leather Archives helps preserve the historical and physical memory of those who fought, lived, died, rallied, formed a global community, and fucked their way into creating a subculture of sex.

The artifacts and records at the LA&M are drawn from what author Gayle Rubin calls peoples' "sexuality estate." Consider the example of a donor who is preparing to send their personal collection to the LA&M. If this donor has the ability to send their archives themselves without an intermediary, then the physical, psychic, and emotional process of packing the boxes; putting files and papers in order; flipping through photographs; re-reading an old Xeroxed porn story from a mail-order catalog; invoking nights spent at the Leather bar—for the donor, the very act of remembering becomes a sexual act.

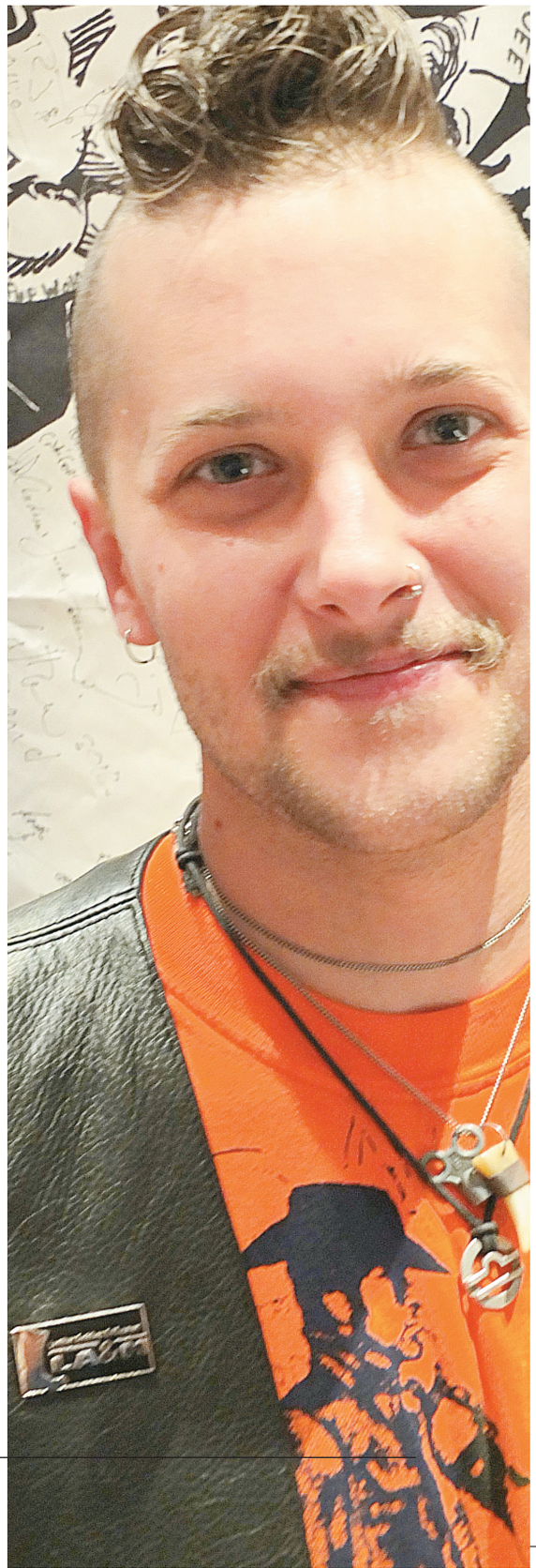
Then the donor sends the collection to the LA&M. As the archivist, I too physically engage with the documentation of an individual's or organization's relationship to sex and kink. I make decisions about how a collection is organized, remove paper clips and staples, rehouse papers in acid-free folders and boxes, and transfer photographs to archival-quality sleeves. Through these archival practices I become a participant in the sexual memories, identities, procedures, and rituals through the physical evidences of the creator's sexual life.

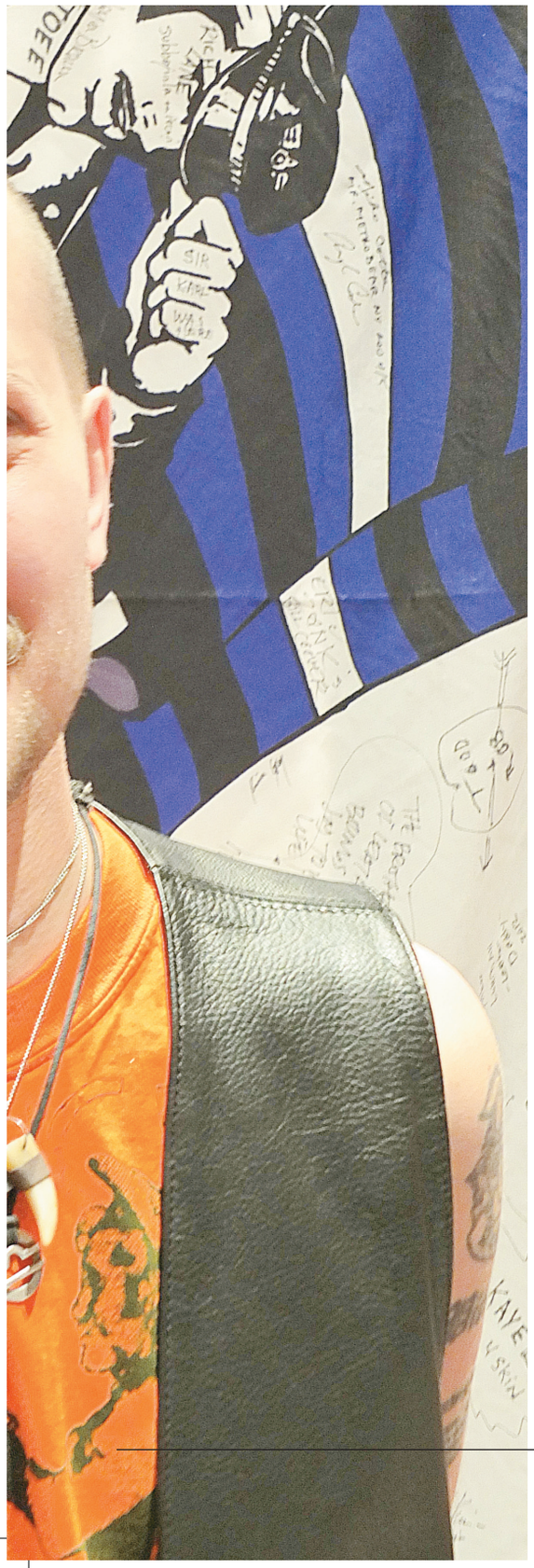
Similar to the experience of the donor, the act of archival work at the LA&M is also inherently sexual. I interact with sex daily, whether it's in the form of a short fiction piece about a hot fisting scene, a series of twelve Polaroid photographs of a man in various stages of wax play, or a painting of two women—one pressing the spike of a stiletto into the other woman's crotch. I am inundated with fantasies and fetish that comprise our collective sexual history.

These are the materials that are representative of what we collect. Our existence as a museum, archive, and library disrupts and challenges the notions that 1) explicit materials should not be embodied in traditional repositories, and 2) that these materials are too inappropriate to be "on display."

So my relationship to these sexuality materials is truly unique: I am at once both an archives professional and a BDSM participant. The materials themselves, combined with the charged sexual energy of the archives room, the museum and the library create a feeling similar to a play space, a Leather bar, or a dungeon. Each time a new archival collection is processed, we encounter a unique relationship with "play," and we bring that knowledge and presence back into the current conversation about Leather culture and community.

The dialogue between, on one hand, the materials collected by the LA&M and, on the other hand, our professional staff, visitors, and even social media followers, creates a highly sexual and sexualized work environment, which is very unique to a museum and archive space. From the offices, to the archives room, to the visitors touring the museum, we all participate in kink simply by entering the building. We all become part of it.





The LA&M is sexuality materials, and as an archivist I experience how the sexual subject and physical object are collected and curated. The spanking bench from Galleria Domain 2, titleholders' sashes, innumerable matchbooks—as Richard Meyer writes in *At Home in Marginal Domains*, "No small part of the historical appeal of such objects is that they were never intended to bear historical meaning in the first place." These are objects that you write your phone number on in a bar, use for a scene at a play party, or win at a contest. Some of the most significant traces of Leather culture and community are embedded in the emotional and cultural meanings of objects that were never meant to fill a museum. Evidence and documentation of Leather history is often difficult to fully recover or reconstruct due to the marginalization of BDSM communities, and particularly of kinky GLBTQ people.

Our collections are not just passive, idle objects—they are sexual objects, memories, records, and histories that double as museum objects. So it's no wonder that these materials contribute to the feeling and experience of the LA&M as a play space or dungeon. Record-keeping at the LA&M means engaging intimately with the legacy of sex and sexuality artifacts inherited from past generations, maintained in the present, and preserved for the benefit of future generations. This commitment to kinky cultural heritage creates an archive where we are not only engaged in the collections themselves, but also the sex acts that are contained within them. Collectively, we are able to experience the bodies, language, fetishes, scenes, and desires of our Leather ancestors. When I was discussing the idea of the LA&M as a play space with my Leathersister, LA&M volunteer, and producer, director, and editor of the documentary *High Shine: 15 Years of International Ms. Bootblack*, Christina Court, she said, "I find mentors and lovers amongst the dead at the LA&M...because, in an odd and very cerebral way, I have played with them and engaged in a very intimate experience with them, and they have 'fed' me much like an outstanding Dominant or Sadist feeds me in play." And I agree with her.

Archival work at the LA&M is emotional, physical, and cerebral. It's serious work, and I am very serious about it. I don't just work with history, I feel it. Of course, archives are about documentation, preservation, history. But they're also about nostalgia, the weight of memory. I believe that my work comes with great responsibility—a responsibility to you all, members of the Leather community, to preserve a history that has been systematically and systemically ignored and kept out of traditional repositories, museum, libraries, and archives. I also believe it is the responsibility of the LA&M to have a well-organized, inclusive, and innovative space that operates using archival and cataloging best practices and standards while also maintaining a strong digital presence.

The voices, lives, artifacts, memorabilia, papers, and collections should continue to be representative of the breadth and scope of the leather community, particularly those of us who have been underrepresented within this community, such as people of color in leather, women in leather, and transgender and gender non-conforming people in leather. As theorist Ann Cvetkovich has so brilliantly articulated, an archive doesn't just hold materials, things—but also the emotional and affective traces of life, trauma, sorrow, joy, and regret. I consider it an important part of my job as the Archivist/Collections Librarian to unearth these interwoven complexities and present the stories of Leather and kink history with dynamism and with as much variation as I can.

I am asking for your help in bringing some new voices to the LA&M. As Steve Lenius asserts in *Life, Leather, and the Pursuit of Happiness*, "You can help preserve history. Spend an afternoon, or even longer, getting your own stories down, whether on paper, audio, or video." If you have a friend's leather vest, for example, consider telling the story of that artifact. How did it get into your hands? What bars and runs has it attended?

Record the story of your Leather family, your first fisting scene, your favorite bootblack. Become a member of the Leather Archives & Museum, become a volunteer, ask to take a tour of the archives room, or take the self-guided tour of the museum. Look online and view our digitized material, send us an email, give us a call. Know your history, inform your present, and anticipate your future. Experience the archival collections at the LA&M, and come bear witness to our Leather ancestors and the marks these ancestors have left on the body of the world. ■

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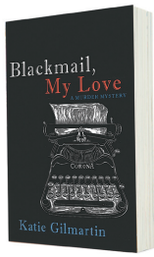
BOOKS | BY E.B. BOATNER

Cookies and Scream: A Cookie Cutter Shop Mystery
Virginia Lowell
Berkley
$7.99



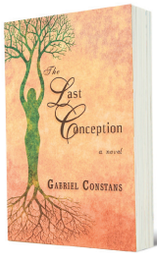
Olivia Greyson, owner of Chatterly Heights's renowned Gingerbread House, purveyor of cookies, cookie cutters, cookie cookbooks, and all things able to be baked and frosted, returns from vacation to find her wall safe full to the brim with a trove of rare cutters she has never seen before. Turns out they belong to Greta Oskarson, a former resident, who has ended her fifty-year absence to have Olivia broker her treasures. As happens in small, cozy villages, Greta turns up dead, leaving only the cutters and a trail of ancient hatreds, outright enemies and ill-will for Olivia and her best friend, Maddie, to sort out. Lowell keeps the pace up in the fifth of her Cookie Cutter Shop Mysteries: still time for a delicious summer read!

Blackmail, My Love
Katie Gilmartin
Cleis Press
$16.95



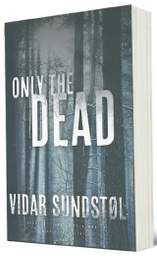
Jimmy O'Conner has gone missing, and his younger sister, Josephine, is hellbent on finding him. To that end she travels to San Francisco's Tenderloin, moving into his empty room in the Chadwick Arms Hot-l, a run-down, broken-signed affair. Running into brick walls as a female, Josephine next dresses in Jimmy's clothes and, as Joe, plunges into the frightening, dangerous, and hermetically closed gay world of 1951. The novel then explores the search for Jimmy, and the search for Josephine/Joe. As Joe searches deeper, she finds—and acts on—her own true feelings. The narrative is first person, the dialogue and atmosphere are captivatingly noir. Gilmartin peoples her tale with real individuals and places of the time, illustrated with stark black-and-white woodcuts. Satisfying historically and as fiction.

The Last Conception
Gabriel Constans
Melange Books
$12.95



Constans, author of the novels *Buddha's Wife, St. Catherine's Baby, It's About Time, and The Skin of Lions: Rawandan Folk Tales*, weaves threads of family, biological lineage, love, and religion into highly readable yarn. Savarna, an East Indian embryologist, is being pressured by her family to marry and have a baby. She reveals she is lesbian, they announce that she is the last in line of a great (and secret) spiritual lineage. Her sister, Chitra, is happily married, but unable to conceive. Savarna does find her love, Charley (a woman), and they all must decide to agree what might be considered a continuation to this lineage. If efforts at artificial conception fail, what avenue is left? What if there is no blood kin at all?

Only the Dead
Vidar Sundstøl
University of Minnesota
$22.95



In The Land of Dreams, Sundstøl's first novel in his Minnesota Trilogy, U.S. Forest Service officer Lance Hansen found the mutilated body of a Norwegian tourist on the shore of Lake Superior. The trail led to a local Ojibwe man, currently in jail. Hansen uncovered evidence indicating his brother, Lance, but kept silent. There are dark hints that a hundred-year-old murder in the same area is related. This haunted, claustrophobic novel enfolds the brothers in the icy November woods, ostensibly on their annual deer hunting excursions. Armed and circling one another, Lance now knows what Hansen suspects, Hansen knows he knows, each wrapped in his fear and guilt. Readers must wait for *The Raven* to see how this cat-and-mouse game concludes. Well worth the wait. ■



BIGGAYNEWS FROM WASHINGTON, DC:

Supreme Court Declines To Review Same-Sex Marriage Cases

The *Washington Post* reports that the Supreme Court on Monday, October 6, decided not to review rulings that cleared the way for same-sex marriage in Virginia, Utah, Oklahoma, Indiana and Wisconsin, a surprising decision that shows the court is comfortable with the expansion of such unions throughout the nation. Although the decision puts off the decision on whether the constitutionality of same-sex marriage would apply to all states in the union, it does send a clear signal that at least the majority of justices felt that there was no need to overturn lower court decisions that have found state prohibitions to be unconstitutional. The decision proved surprising to those who closely watch the court's actions, primarily because many feel that it's significant that the Supreme Court would not allow such significant change to occur without their input. James Esseks of the American Civil Liberties Union commented that he was "blown away by this. It is a watershed moment for the entire country." Esseks also said that today's action seems to show that it doesn't matter whether an appeals court now rules that state prohibitions are constitutional, but that if such does happen, this would be a fairly good hint at what the court would do if they did decide to take the case.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM CALIFORNIA:

Iconic Gay Photographer John Palatinus Dies

The *Desert Sun* reports that photographer John Palatinus of Palm Springs, who in the 1950s dared to showcase the male physique as a form of beauty and desire, died on September 22 at age 85. Palatinus' earliest works tended to be showcased in *Tomorrow's Man* and other bodybuilding magazines popular amongst the gay community, and usually depicted models alone and in nonsexual poses to keep with the conservative mindset of the time. His career took a turn in 1961 when police raided his New York City apartment and studio, investigating accusations of him sending explicit photos through the mail, which was a criminal offense. After being found guilty, Palatinus veered away from physique photography and into more commercial pursuits until there was a resurgence in interest in his works in 2009.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM MINNESOTA:

High School League Proposal On Transgender Athletes Draw Impassioned Pleas

The *Star Tribune* reports that with an estimated 10,000 emails about a controversial proposal to guide the participation of transgender athletes in high school sports already in hand, officials of the Minnesota State High School League heard the impassioned voices of parents, students and advocates Wednesday. The crowd of over 150 people overflowed the league's Brooklyn Center boardroom, with three city police officers on hand to provide security and to ensure civility as the proceedings commenced. 28 speakers out of 55 in line were heard during the meeting, with Zeam Porter, a junior in high school who identifies as "trans genderqueer", being one of them. Porter made an emotional speech detailing the difficulties and heartache of trying to play a sport that she loves but being forced to play on the girls' team.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM ARIZONA:

Arizona High School Throws Out Ballots For Lesbian Homecoming Couple

Advocate.com reports that administrators at Willow Canyon High School in Surprise, Arizona, are refusing to consider student ballots cast for a lesbian couple to be homecoming queens, regardless of broad support the young women have received from the student body. Students at the school such as senior Megan Sanchez say that people are arguing about whether to defer to tradition or to equality, and that disregarding the wishes of the majority of the student body is standing in the way of progress. A statement released by officials of the Dysart Unified School District, however, states that tradition should be honored, and that "one person is voted in by fellow students to represent female students at Homecoming and one male student is voted in by the students to represent the boys. Who that female and male student is, is up to the student vote."

BIGGAYNEWS FROM CALIFORNIA:

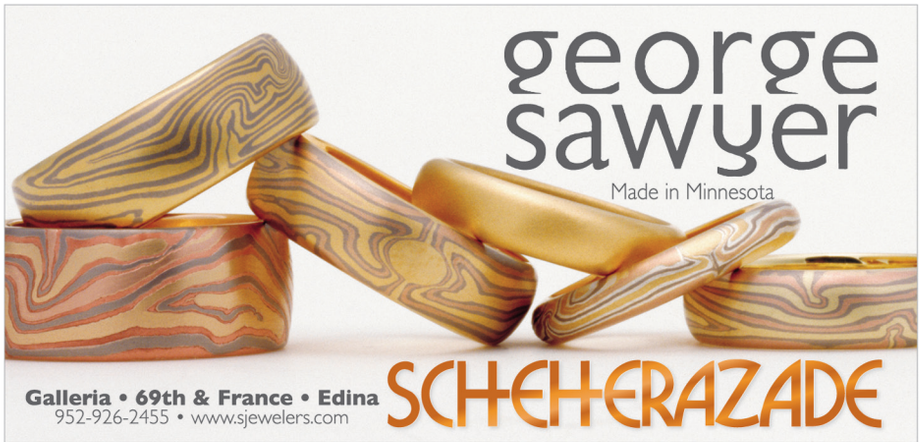
GLAAD Study: Gay Depictions Increase On TV

Philly.com reports that television has increased its depiction of gay, lesbian and bisexual characters, with the edge going to cable and the Internet over broadcast networks, according to a study released Wednesday by the advocacy group GLAAD. The study found that, in the 2014-2015 season, there will be a total of 32 characters out of 813 regular characters on primetime network series, which translates as 3.9% of regularly seen characters and an increase over the 3.3% from last year. Fox has the most GLBT characters among networks. With regard to cable shows, the study found that there are 64 regular GLBT characters, in increase over the 42 characters from last season.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM FRANCE:

Tens Of Thousands Rally In France Against IVF, Surrogacy For Same-Sex Families

RT reports that over 500,000 opponents of same-sex marriage have flooded the streets of Paris and Bordeaux to protest against medically-assisted reproduction for gay couples, rally organizers said. The protests were organized by the Manif pour Tous (Protest for Everyone) group, who feels that all children need to be raised with both a mother and a father, and they are supporting "traditional family values". Gay marriage is legal in France and homosexuals are allowed to adopt children, but are still barred from using in vitro fertilization in order to conceive children. ■



RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

2014 Maserati Ghibli



We love fine Italian goods.

Whether it is from Armani, Prada, Valentino, Gucci, or Ermenegildo Zegna, we look to Milan for the finest in fashion. We also want pieces from Natuzzi, Mobili, and Cassina to adorn our homes. We associate Italy with elegant style and excellence at every turn.

For automobiles, a few names come up. For the past century, Maserati provided some of the most memorable vehicles that ever entertained us. From world champions to grand tourers, Maseratis combined style, luxury,

and performance into a package that is surprisingly attainable.

To celebrate all things fine and Italian, we got a chance to drive the latest Maserati around: the mid-sized Ghibli.

Upon first glance, the Ghibli speaks "modern Italian luxury." To look at the Ghibli is to look at a sculpture with undeniable curves and shapes. Yet, it is a modern sedan with traditional Maserati design elements. The Trident dominates the front end with an appropriately designed grille. Two scowling headlamp units frame this front end as an invitation to see the rest of the Ghibli.

On the fender are three port holes–a reminder of Maserati's racing heritage. The roofline is a pure notchback with a distinctive glasshouse and a solid rear quarter pillar. It is modern-looking at the rear, but with distinctive Maserati touches to distinguish this from its competition.

Stepping into the Ghibli, there are a few things to consider. You have rich Italian leather to sit in. The seats are bolstered well, very comfortable and soft. The frontal area is huge, if not perfectly sized. A position, that includes working the gear lever and the paddle shifters, is one where the driver works while relaxed. Maserati nailed the driver's part of this new sedan.

Rear seat occupants may find things a bit tight. Average-sized parents with small children will find a home inside the Ghibli's cabin. Also, if you are looking for a quiet experience inside, then you may want to adjust your ears for the finest soundtrack in its class: the exhaust. To buy an Italian car is to add the staccato tones coming from underneath and rearward through four exhaust ports.

The interior design is truly Maserati. It is bespoke for the price point—that speaks volumes. The dials are truly Maserati in look, as is the feel of materials from the steering wheel to the paddle shifters and key switches. Ergonomically, everything is laid out just right for the driver. One thing you may have to remember when driving the Ghibli: the ignition button is on the left side of the instrument panel.

There are many touches that point to its leveraged partnership under the Fiat Chrysler family. Some might say that the presence of switches, stalks, and screens may appear to be cheapened by Chrysler components; however, they truly fit and work well inside the Ghibli. For example, the Maserati Touch System may seem like your average UConnect touch screen, but it is focused on giving the Ghibli owner reliable and business-like functionality.

The best part of the Ghibli is its huge trunk; 18 cubic feet of everything. You can pack deep inside of the space for a long vacation for two or more.

The Ghibli Q4 offers 404 horsepower of Ferrari-developed twin turbocharged V6 brio. Though you hear it through the exhaust, it is extremely poised and devoid of turbo lag. If it is not to simply hear it, you have to look at it. At least look at the sculpturing of the cylinder heads.

A ZF 8-speed automatic funnels that twin turbocharged power to all four wheels for unobtrusive action toward maximum traction. This driveline is happiest when you put it into Manual mode. You have the freedom of gear manipulation for any situation it requires. It also teaches you how to drive like a true enthusiast to understand at which speed you need to shift where, at which situation.

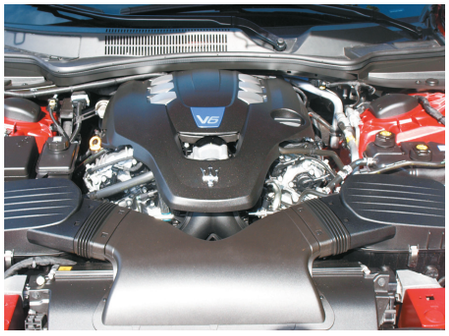
The Ghibli is also poised and balanced through the curves. There is no evidence of roll or lean when you attack them. The ride is on the firm side, but there is more than enough dampening to not send the worst spots of the road through the cabin. You will find the steering is well-weighted with solid action at the wheel. Turning may be a bit heavy, but you could accomplish some maneuvers just fine. Stopping power is very good. Expect strong braking through normal and panic stops.

According to the EPA, the Ghibli Q4 will average 18MPG.

The Ghibli starts off at $66,900 before destination charges. This Q4 tester starts at $76,900. In comparison to its direct competitors, the Maserati is priced on the high side, but not by much.

Then again, you would expect to pay top dollar for fine Italian goods. The Maserati Ghibli is exactly that: a fine Italian sedan. There may be things that will put off the most discriminating aficionado of all-things-Maserati, but consider the fact that you get reliable components that will keep your Ghibli going longer than any Maserati before. Consider that the Ghibli is here for the long run and not at the whim of unstable management, as in the past.

This Ghibli is a great mid-sized sports sedan that stands out above the competition. Not solely because it is the only Italian offering amongst a mostly German crowd, but because its heritage, its level of luxury, and its alluring styling guarantee years of entertaining drives in one sedan. ■







SKIRTING THE ISSUES | BY ELLEN KRUG

The Scolding Voice

It was a Friday evening with three girlfriends over takeout pizza, chips, and wine.

One topic of conversation?

Men. More specifically, how some men abuse women and how women "let" it happen.

It's the story de jour this football season with the likes of Ray Price, Greg Hardy, and Jonathan Dwyer, not to mention even a federal judge, Mark Fuller.

Two of my friends—though nearly thirty years apart in age—had very similar stories: Mensa smart, married to men, forced into situations that they'd never allow themselves to get into otherwise, great personal suffering because of it, and then finally, through luck or guts (or both), divorce and freedom.

Cassandra, the younger of the two, met Sam in college; they later married while in graduate school in Boston. Sam was introverted, a loner, while Cassandra was more outgoing. She went into the marriage believing their divergent personalities weren't a problem.

In a slow, apparently deliberate process, Sam worked to isolate Cassandra from her friends and family. At first, it was excuses as to why he couldn't join Cassandra when she gathered with others. Later, he threw guilt her way for leaving him alone. This progressed to anger outbursts and Sam dictating that if Cassandra did "something wrong," her "punishment" would be forfeiting a monthly trip home to her family in northern New England.

Fully aware that all of this was wrong, Cassandra hoped that Sam would change, that he'd "come out" of the darkness that surrounded him. She couldn't give up on Sam.

Sam decided they would move from Boston to San Francisco for his career. Although this wasn't what Cassandra wanted at all, she didn't resist so as to keep Sam happy. "Life was better if I played within the rules," she said.

The pattern of control/submission continued in San Francisco until an anger outburst culminated with Sam slamming a kitchen chair into a wall. Shortly thereafter, the downstairs neighbor pounded on their apartment door. The neighbor, a well-built man whom I've dubbed "Rambo," demanded that Sam take a walk; Sam grudgingly agreed.

Twenty minutes later, the two men returned to the apartment. While Rambo waited with Cassandra, Sam went into the bedroom and packed clothes. With suitcase in hand, Sam announced that he was leaving. He then did just that—he walked out the door.

For the first time in years, Cassandra had space to "think about my life and what I wanted without Sam's pressure." Slowly, she stopped hearing Sam's "scolding voice" in her head. When Sam repeatedly asked for a second chance, Cassandra bravely answered, "No." She divorced Sam and moved to Minneapolis, starting fresh as a free human.

Elaine began with Fredrick knowing that he had serious emotional problems, but she viewed him as a "great project," that she could "fix." It helped that he was brilliant, charming, handsome, and successful in business. He was her senior by fifteen years, which added to the allure. They married and had a daughter.

Fredrick soon demanded that Elaine stop teaching piano lessons because it didn't pay enough. As she put it, "He said I wasn't carrying my weight financially." She thus went from something she loved (piano and music) to a business career that she hated.

Soon there was a pattern of Fredrick constantly belittling and blaming Elaine for all of his problems. He too engaged in regular scolding. The tipping point came when Fredrick blew up at their daughter (then twelve) in front of her friends. "I knew I'd leave after that," Elaine reported. It took Elaine and her daughter two years to break free.

I was awestruck by my friends' stories. Both women are dynamic and engaging; one would never know that either could have ever "allowed" herself to be abused.

There's not enough space here to get into how it is that a human may unwillingly submit to another human's control. Suffice to say that threats, anger, and the myriad of other emotional and physical devices (including beatings) used to invoke fear and compliance all constitute *abuse*. (Yes, being beaten is abuse, but so is dictatorial emotional control.) Indeed, I'm no expert on domestic abuse or violence.

However, here's my reference point: countless times I've said, "I'll never do that," and yet I end up doing the very thing I promised myself that I'd never do. That list of things is very, very long.

Thus, who am I to judge my friends? I absolutely won't judge—either them or any other survivor.

Loving someone and being loved is a *privilege.* There are many who don't ever get to enjoy that privilege, which makes abusing the privilege—and abusing the human doing the loving—far worse.

Some of you dear gentle readers may know a survivor of current or past abuse. Perhaps you're a survivor yourself, looking for a way to escape.

It takes guts to reach out to others in need since there's always the fear of "interfering." Even more—raw courage—is needed to protect one's self.

Still, guts and courage aren't impossible.

Just ask Cassandra and Elaine.

Or Rambo. ■

Note: All names are pseudonyms. If you or a friend or loved one is an abuse survivor, call United Way 2-1-1 (dial "211") to learn about resources that can help. Ellie Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com.





OUR LAVENDER

"BEAR" WITH ME (WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT)...

BY BARRY LEAVITT

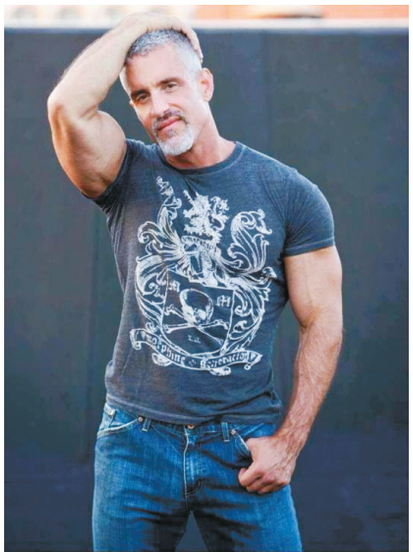


Photo by Kevin Hoover

COLTON FORD LIVE
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The Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
18+ • $8 cover • www.saloonmn.com

Colton Ford CD/Autograph Signing
October 24 • 8-10am
Twin Cities Leather & Latte • 2717 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
Free to attend
www.twincitiesleather.com

The silver daddy muscle-god from Mission Viejo, CA makes his inaugural visit to Minneapolis, which includes a CD/Autograph signing at Twin Cities Leather & Latté and an evening at The Saloon featuring music from his new album, *The Way I Am:* a blend of dance, electronica, house, pop, funk, R&B, and a little jazz. "Getting to know oneself is a process, and I believe it's what we are all here in this life to figure out," says Ford. "I'm an unconditional lover. I lean towards optimism. The record conveys my truth with songs about self love, falling in love, staying in love, the loss of love, and yeah, hoping to get some." His collaboration with Ron Schrader on "All My Love" and "Alone" holds special meaning for him. The two have known each other since kindergarten. "He's my longest friendship," says Ford. "It was an incredible opportunity to work with him." Ford has no qualms in reclaiming his hunky status. "Sex sells," he proclaims. "Turn on the TV, open a magazine or log onto the Internet. It's everywhere. Being an artist and trying to resonate in the mainstream requires everything, including packaging. "After all," Colton Ford says with a laugh, "being provocative is part of my nature. It is just another layer of the way I am." ■

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DATELAND | BY JENNIFER PARELLO

Death by Cards, Part 2

(In our first installment, we learned that I play competitive bridge with a bunch of weirdos, and have made a lot of enemies during tournament play.)

The first enemy I made in the bridge world was a menacing giant with halitosis. The guy would hunch his misshapen body over his cards, transforming himself into a bulky question mark. And with his dragon breath, he'd belittle and intimidate one of my regular bridge partners, a sweet, gay man who's too timid to fight back.

Each time we'd face off against this bully, and his equally loathsome partner, my maternal hackles would rise and I'd start jabbing before he could attack my partner. He's a homophobe so I'd focus on remarks that questioned his fragile manhood. "What dainty, girlish hands you have, Frank!" I'd exclaim, which never failed to rattle him, allowing us to easily kick his sorry ass at the bridge table.

Most of my bridge enemies are like Frank: combative loaners with zero social skills. In the real world, I'd be generous and forgiving of these oddballs. But put playing cards in my hand and sit me across from some outcast who wants to avenge all the wrongs in his life by being rude to me and my partner, and I become a jerk.

Also, I'm routinely cranky on game nights because, as I outlined in the first installment of this column, no eligible ladies play this stupid game. Yes, there are lots of women, but they're straight and many are quite elderly. Over the years, out of desperation, I've tried flirting with youngish female players with suspicious haircuts and spinsterish sensibilities, but it always ends in disaster. They mistake my clumsy come-ons as an invitation to bore the hell out of me with details about their tedious hobbies. It usually ends with me invited to a Daughters of the American Revolution luncheon followed by an interminable tea service at their parents' home. (They always live with their parents.)

For the past several weeks, I have been courting a new bridge partner, which is as tricky and delicate as negotiating a new romance. But this person—a coolly, attractive woman and an excellent bridge player, who has traded intense gazes with me across the tournament room for several months—was already in some type of indentured partnership with a brutish but clever tax attorney who hates my guts. I won't get into why he hates me because unless you play bridge it will make no sense. Let's just say there was an "incident" over his lack of sportsmanship and he's been out for my blood ever since. It didn't help that I've been campaigning to woo his comely partner away from his vile side and make her my own.

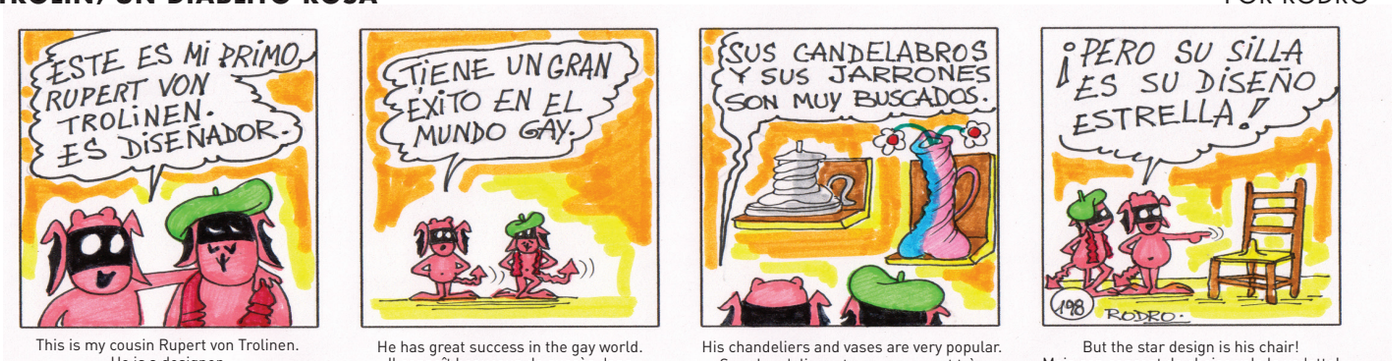
By the end of the game, in which I charmed her with both my superior playing skills and witty remarks about the scandalous private lives of the face cards, I knew I had won her over. Her now-former partner seethed as he watched her slip me her number, and shadowed us menacingly in the parking lot as we arranged to play together the following week.

Since then, I've experienced a series of misfortunes. I left for work one morning to find my front car tires mysteriously deflated. I've received a threatening letter from the IRS. Everything I drink tastes like it's been poisoned.

Have I made one too many enemies in the bridge world? Is my life in jeopardy? I suppose my fate is now in the cards. But it will all be worth it if I get something other than a tea party out of this. ■

Bridge players: if you're looking for a partner to play online, please contact me at jenójen@me.com.

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA POR RODRO



This is my cousin Rupert von Trolinen. He is a designer.
Voici mon cousin Rupert von Trolinen. Il est concepteur.

He has great success in the gay world.
Il connaît beaucoup de succès dans le monde gai.

His chandeliers and vases are very popular.
Ses chandeliers et ses vases sont très recherchés.

But the star design is his chair!
Mais son concept de chaise vole la vedette!

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ADVERTISER INDEX

Adult
Megaphone....61

AIDS/HIV Information & Treatment
Park House....35

Apparel & Accessories
Costumes Plus....33

Arts & Entertainment
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres....15
Electric Fetus....37
Light'n Up....41

Automotive
Morrie's Brooklyn Park Subaru....6
Richfield Bloomington Honda....59
Turbo Tim's Anything Automotive....41

Bars & Nightlife
19 Bar....42
Gay 90's....43
Imperial Room, The....25
Liquor Lyles....21

Beverages
Divalicious Wines....4
Haskell's....25

Event Services
Green Acres....7
Lancer Catering....2

Financial
Karen R Palm, CPA, CFP....11
Moltaji, Roya....9
ROR Tax Professionals....11
Wells Fargo Bank....13

Health & Wellness
Dr. Paul Amble DDS....11
Burns, Steve....59
Family Tree Clinic....7
HCMC....45
Minnetonka Dental....41
Sweatshop Health Club....58
Teksmart....45
University of Minnesota, Infectious Diseases....3

Home Furnishings & Accessories
Light'n Up!....4

Home Services
Custom Christmas Lighting....33
House Lift Remodeler....6
Minnesota Exteriors Inc....4
Twin Cities Closet Co....7
Vujovich Design Build....33

Insurance
Bartell, Dawn....9

Jewelry
Max's....10
Scheherazade Jewelers....9
Shane Co....39
Wedding Day Diamonds....11

Legal
Cloutier Law Offices....54
GOLBERG....45
Heltzer & Houghtaling....14
Jerry Burg, Attorney at Law....13
Johnson, Randall....15
Meshbesher & Spence....9
Messerli & Kramer, Attorneys at Law....5
Moshier, Becky....11
Robichaud, Anderson & Alcantara, P.A....23

Media & Communications
AM950 Radio....33
Radio K 770....13

Optical
Joffe Medi Center....5

Organizations
Lifelong Adoptions....45
Metropolitan Center for Independent Living....14

Pet Products & Services
Larpenteur Animal Hospital....37
Pet Dermatology Clinic....37
Pets Are Inn....35
Scenic Hills Animal Hospital....37
Woof Pack Dog Daycare....41

Real Estate & Rentals
Jeff Simek - Edina Realty....29

Religious
Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church....37

Restaurants
Be'wiched Deli....21
Blackbird Cafe....21
Burger Moe's....25
Crave Downtown Minneapolis....21
Jakeeno's Pizza & Pasta....21
Marin....68
Mason's Restaurant / Barre....23
Melting Pot, The....25
Northbound Smokehouse Brewpub21
Toast Wine Bar & Cafe....23
Uptown Diner, Woodbury Cafe, Louisiana Cafe, Grandview Grill....23

Tobacco Products
E-Cig Pod....58
Smokeless Smoking....54

Travel & Accommodations
The Hotel Minneapolis & restaurant Max....7
Water Street Inn....35

Zoos
Minnesota Zoo....6

ADDICTION INFO & TREATMENT

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THROUGH THESE EYES | BY JUSTIN JONES

The Very Incredibly True History of Halloween



Gather 'round, autumn darlings. Grab your hot cocoa, throw on some pajamas, and cozy up for a story of love and loss and miscellaneous heathen…

Once upon a time, the Devil fell in love with and long-term-dated a boy called Jack. Their favorite holiday was Jack's birthday, October 31, when every year the Devil offered to grant any wish Jack so requested, and year after year, Jack wished only to spend time with their friends.

Jack and the Devil kept a small pumpkin patch at the cobblestone cottage they shared, and the Devil, knowing a great deal about gardens, grew the most delicious pumpkins you'd ever taste. (It so happens that pumpkins were long ago damned to hell for vegetable deception, making Hell a perfect place in which to grow them.)

And so it was on October 31 every year that Hell's demons and miscellaneous heathen descended upon Jack and the Devil's home for Jack's birthday pumpkin party. The Sitri Family brought over Mama Penny's (as the neighbors so called her) famous pumpkin pie; Alastor, one of Jack and the Devil's dearest friends, managed pumpkin spice wine; and the Valacs whipped up annual batches of pumpkin candies (although it was well-known that these candies were leftovers from their annual bake sale, which was never well-received). But what everyone looked forward to most was the Devil's presentation. Ever the craft maven, the Devil repurposed shells of empty cooking pumpkins by carving them into cute little faces that'd serve as cute little candle dishes that'd create a cute little atmosphere for their cute little party.

Jack and the Devil spent years together with this routine, and year after year the Devil emphasized more and more that on his birthday Jack could wish for *anything* he wanted.

"Including eternal youth and beauty," the Devil once suggested, to which Jack took great offense. The Devil reasoned, and quite wisely to himself, that Jack was human and getting no younger—or prettier.

Until the night Jack died.

The whole incident has been greatly exaggerated in the media, so brush away the stories you've heard. The true story of Jack's death is this: he ate a piece of candy.

The particular treat Jack ate belonged to the Valacs, poisoned by Mr. Valac in an effort to—in his words—"off the tramp," referring to the incorrigible Mrs. Valac. It wasn't until Jack swallowed it himself that Mr. Valac realized he'd forgotten to separate the tricked candy from the good.

Upon Jack's death, the Devil was sure Jack would go to Hell (oh, the things they'd done!), and finally—finally!–Jack would STOP AGING and spend forever being his handsome self.

But Jack's association with the Devil only helped his ascension to Heaven. Angels were shocked by God's decision to welcome Jack into Heaven. Shortly afterward, God commented to the press, "He was an angel for putting up with that asshole for so long."

When Hell lost Jack, Hell lost its most popular neighbor, and to this day, on every October 31, Hell's citizens carve hallowed lanterns from pumpkin shells to set on their porches in Jack's memory.

Thus, my autumn darlings, let Jack's lesson be a lesson to you: listen to your moms and dads, and let them check—and extensively test—your candy on Halloween, to separate the tricks from the treats. Due to continued low sales, the Valacs' bake sale candy often makes it to wholesale in the U.S.

Happy Halloween! ■

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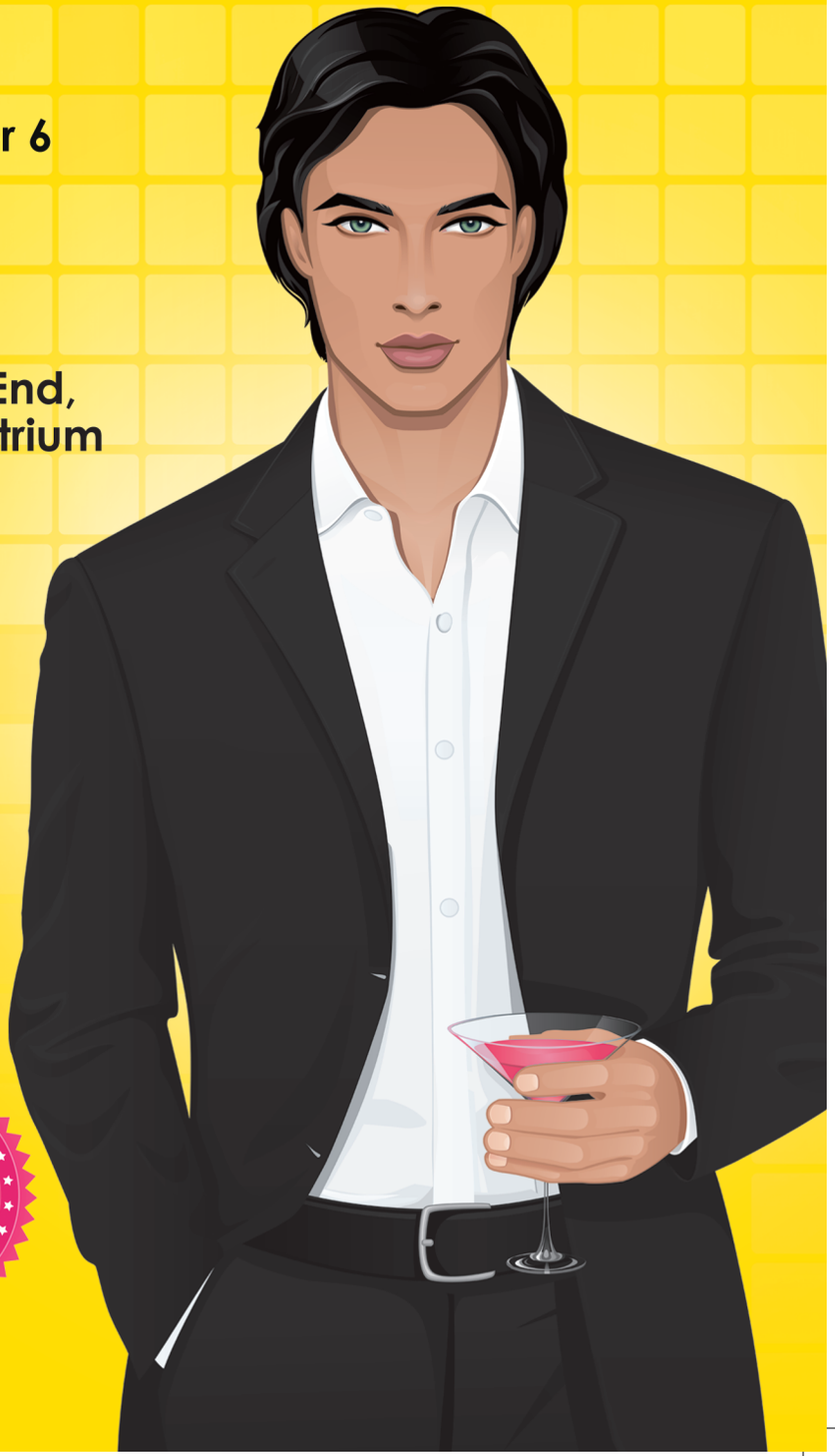
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WHY NORTHERN CALIFORNIA?

It's really the whole land and lifestyle. The emphasis is on food that is fresh, healthy and natural. It's like a breath of fresh air. The inspiration for the food is the use of fresh natural ingredients and preparing food that highlights, not covers, their natural flavors. That's my approach at Marin.

DO YOU TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA OFTEN?

As often as I can — my wife and I spent time this spring in the wine country north of San Francisco. I look for ideas there in everything I see, smell and eat. Since that trip, I've brought back a number of ideas for Marin's menu, including the addition of mushroom ramen.

When you come into Marin, I'd suggest sampling your way through some of our wine finds from the Napa and Sonoma regions. There's nothing better on a warm fall day to grab those last patio moments with a great glass of wine!

MARIN

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